HALL of FAME

Tamil Nadu Forest Department

2016

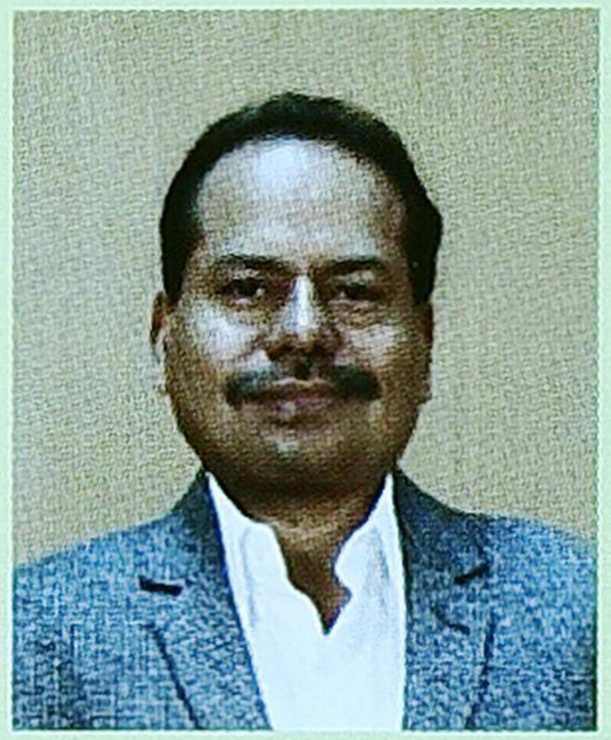
M.S.M. ANANDAN
Minister for Forests

SECRETARIAT
CHENNAI

MESSAGE

Tamil Nadu Forest Department under the guidance of the **Hon'ble Chief Minister AMMA,** is the forerunner in administration and management. This State has had a rich legacy of forest governance and conservation through the able support of renowned foresters. I am happy that this book is being brought out at a very appropriate time when many youngsters are joining the forest stream. This book which briefly illuminates the life and work of illustrious foresters should remain as an excellent source of encouragement for all present and future foresters. I wish to appreciate the Forest Department particularly Thiru. Hans Raj Verma IAS., Principal Secretary the mentor of this very valuable book. I also wish to place on record the effort taken in compilation of this book by Dr. N. Krishnakumar, IFS., Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of the Department and his team for having brought this book at the most appropriate time. I wish the Department all the very best.

(M.S.M. ANANDAN)



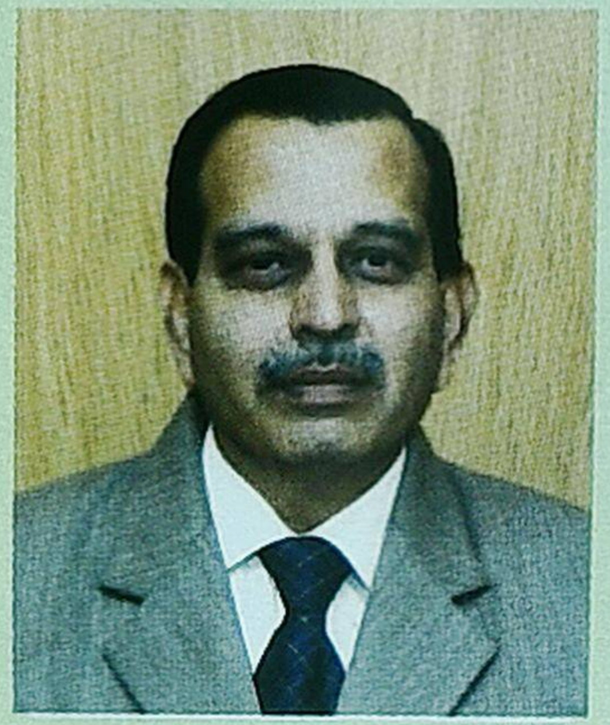
MESSAGE
FROM THE "MENTOR"

The hallmark of a great 'organisation' is the way in which it treats its heroes and path- breaking pioneers. During my informal interaction with the Officers from the Forest Department, the concept of the "Hall of Fame" was conceived and this book is a fitting tribute by this generation Officers to their heroes. A major share of the history of forestry in India is synonymous with the history of Tamil Nadu Forest Department (TNFD). This book will be the guiding star for the future generation of Foresters. Tamil Nadu is blessed by nature in having some of the best forest eco-systems right from its coastal plains to the heights of the Western Ghats. For a Forester, getting an opportunity to be a part of the TNFD is a blessing. I have been fortunate to have a long association with the Western Ghats, thanks to my tenure in the Fisheries Department, Tamil Nadu Electricity Board and the Department of Planning and Development. Thiru. B.N. Yugandhar, Former Member, Union Planning Commission in his discussion on the HADP and WGDP would always stress upon the imperative for conserving the Western Ghats which he would refer to as the sacred geography. Development and conservation are not distinct entities but are rather two interlinked dimensions of people's welfare. Two names which represent the best of synergy between development and conservation are Shri. Appadurai, Founding Chairman of TNEB who was the architect of the network of hydro-power stations in the Western Ghats and Elephant Doctor Krishnamurthy, who devoted his life for the conservation of a keystone species, the Asian Elephants. I am sure their paths would have crossed several times and they would have benefitted from each other's' perspective. I salute their spirit of selfless dedicated service which is also the common theme in the lives of "Hall of Fame" inductees. I am grateful to the TNFD for permitting me to be the Mentor for the "Hall of Fame", concept, which gave me an opportunity to meet legendary personalities and visit interesting places, like Thiru S. Subbarayalu, who still maintains a tree house in his Kilpauk residence, where he does his thinking and writing on forestry sector, "Cheetal Walk" Masinagudy, residence of E.R.C. Davidar and the grave of Hugo Wood at Mt Stuart, Anamalais, whose epitaph "SI MONUMENTUM REQUIRIS CIRCUMSPICE" will be forever imprinted in my mind. I urge the Foresters of the current and future generations to take upon the custodianship and maintain the legacy of "Thought Leadership and Pioneering Spirit of TNFD" and reiterate to the world that they are the rightful owners of the rich legacy of the "Foresters of the yore".

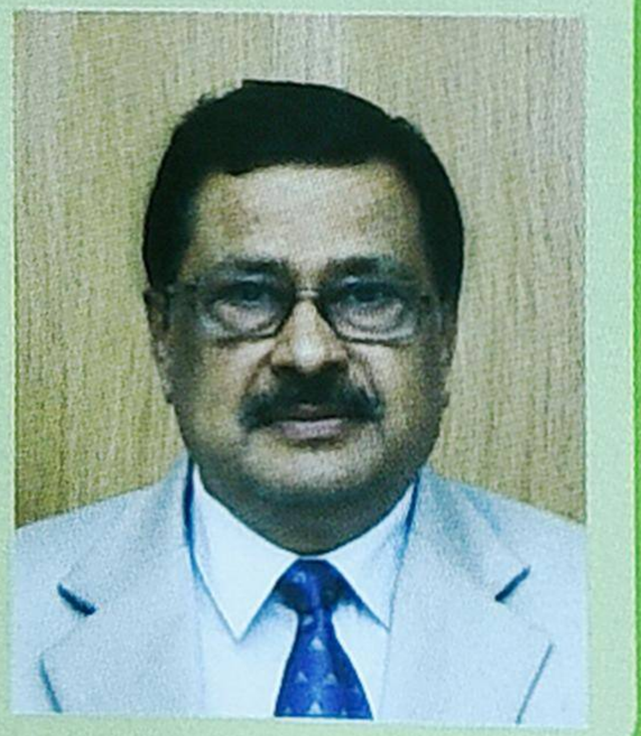
Hans Raj Verma, IAS.,
Principal Secretary to Government, E&F Dept

MESSAGE

FROM THE SENIOR MOST FIRST FIVE OFFICERS



Lakshmi Narayan



R.K. Ojha

Tamil Nadu is endowed with rich natural and cultural heritage. First systematic attempt in exploiting the timber, mainly teak from the Madras Presidency's forests commenced in the first decade of 19th century with the appointment of Watson as the Conservator. Though the forest exploitation continued for half a century thereafter without a formal administrative arrangement, it was only in 1856 Forest Department was formed in the Presidency with the appointment of Dr. Cleghorn as its Conservator of Forests. With Dr. Brandis, a trained forester, at the helm as India's first Inspector General of Forests, formation of a forest organization in the Union and in all Presidencies was pursued in right earnest. Unabated harvest of timber trees, initial attempts in regeneration of felled areas, reservation of forests as Government property under the provisions of the Madras Forest Act, 1882, were the main developments in the second half of 19th century.

The management principles followed by the British foresters aimed to obtain maximum yield of forest produce and surplus forest revenue to the state. Commencement of scientific forestry received an impetus with the introduction of a system of preparation of comprehensive Working Plans for divisions in the early 20th century. The first National Forest Policy 1894 continued to be the basis for forest management in the Presidencies till the country's independence. A bold attempt of placing nearly one sixth of the Madras Presidency's forests with Forest Panchayats in the 1920s proved disastrous and such forests had to be handed back to the Forest department around independence in a much depleted state.

Forest management after independence broadly relied on the 1952 National Policy. On the State's reorganization on linguistic basis in the mid-1950s, large parts of timber forests went to Karnataka and Kerala. The quality of major portion of forest capital left with Madras State needed to be improved though regeneration efforts that received fund support from the Five Year Plan allocations. Despite being a major non-tax revenue earning sector, Forest department

put a halt to its timber harvest and fuel coupe operations in the mid 1980s paving way for the beginning of conservation forestry.

This period coincided with the promulgation of the third National Forest Policy in 1988 that laid emphasis on the role of forests in providing ecological security and on people-inclusive forest management. The State took major initiatives in spearheading participatory forest management and ecodevelopment of its protected areas through many of its externally aided projects in the last two decades, which produced positive results in eco restoration of State's degraded forests, besides significant improvement in the livelihoods of forest dwelling and forest fringe communities. These are reflected in the biennial assessment of Forest and tree cover by the Forest Survey of India.

In the sphere of wildlife conservation too, the State has achieved important milestones with sizeable addition to the Protected Area network and continuous increase in the population of many flagship species.

Beginning with Dr. Cleghorn, who is considered the Father of scientific forestry till today, the forest department was helmed and supported by a line of competent and devoted foresters. Many of them were larger than life and their contributions are permanent and of all encompassing ramifications. Forester's "Hall of Fame" is a plausible and sincere attempt to record and showcase their biographic and work details. We firmly believe that this is only the beginning and many such compilation will need to be brought out at regular intervals.

This treatise is not only a glowing tribute to the Eminent Foresters of yester years but also a source of inspiration and emulation for the present day and future Foresters.We wish to place on record the efforts of Thiru. Hans Raj Verma IAS., Principal Secretary, E&F, the Mentor who conceived this project. We congratulate Dr. N. Krishnakumar IFS., Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and HoD, Dr. Rajeev K. Srivastava, IFS., Director TNFA, and Thiru. V. Ganesan IFS., Conservator of Forests, for their untiring efforts in bringing out this meaningful treatise. ■

T.S. Srinivasamurthy	S. Balaji	V.K. Melkani	R.K. Ojha	Lakshmi Narayan
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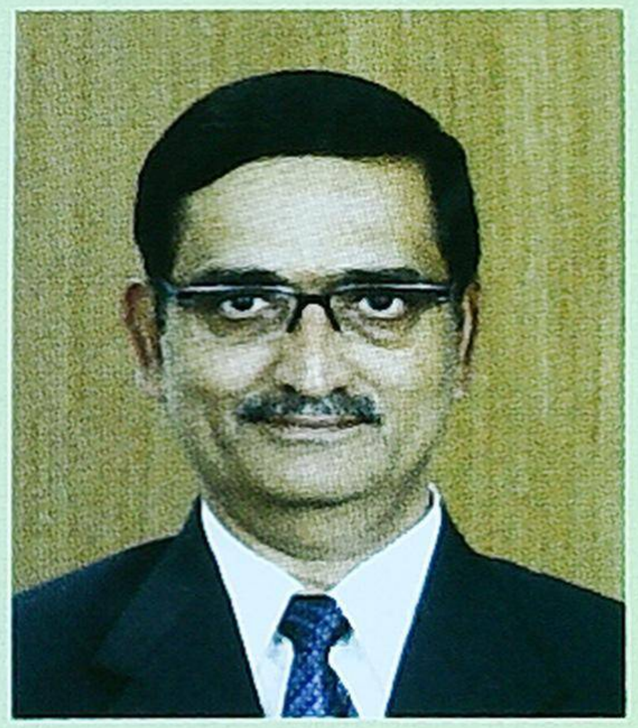
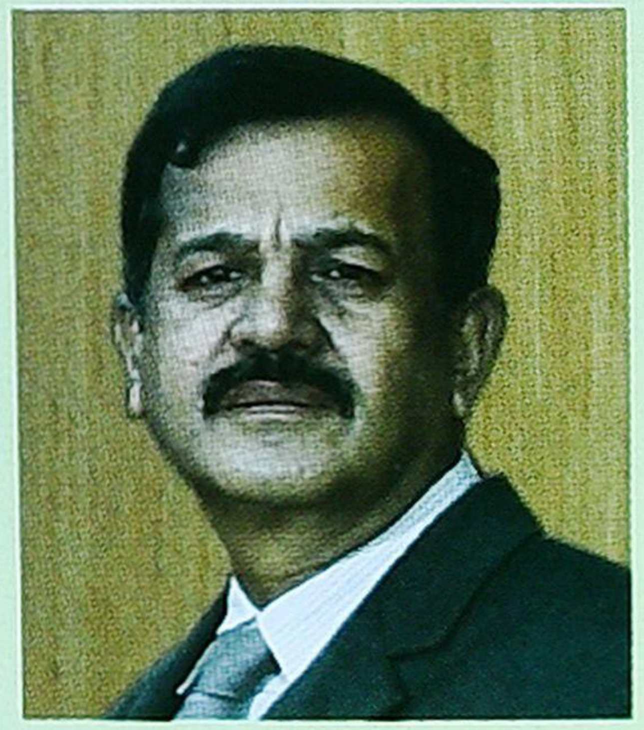
V.K. Melkani

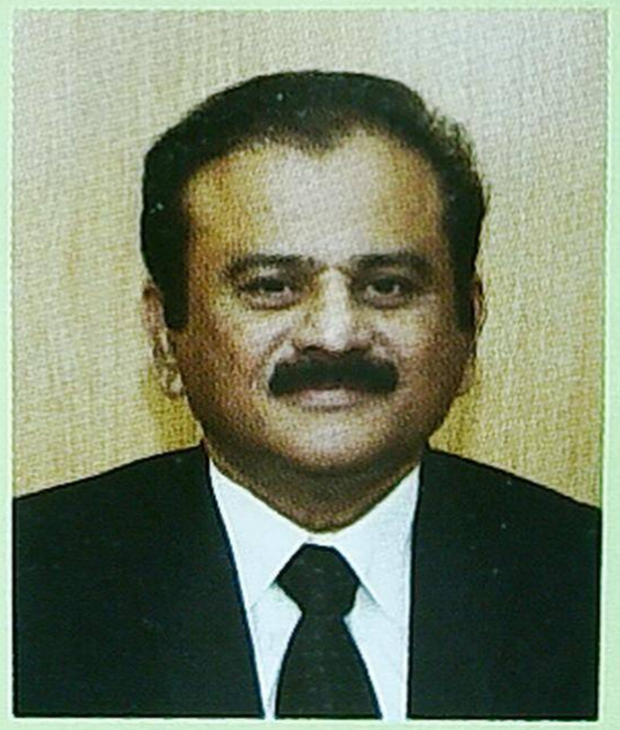


S. Balaji



T.S. Srinivasamurthy

MESSAGE
FROM THE EDITORIAL TEAM



Dr. N Krishnakumar

Tamil Nadu Forest Department has always had the pride of Forest governance on account of the contribution by excellent Forest officers and Field force. This Book is an effort to trace the rich biography of some of the legends, who though presently not with us, have left rich experiences and footprints for us to emulate. The book owes its conceptualization to Thiru. Hans Raj Verma, IAS, who personally guided this work and has been the Mentor, in recognizing the doyens of forestry and establishing the "Hall of Fame".

Tamil Nadu Forest Department has a rich history and tradition of various innovations in the management of Forests and natural resources. Such accomplishments have happened, mainly due to care and concern of excellent Foresters who served the State. This Department has been blessed with foresters from its very inception i.e. 1856. Today, when the Department is completing 160 years, we thought it fit to trace the life history of some illustrious officers and personalities who had worked with passion, commitment and dedication for the cause of conservation.

The State is endowed with rich Forests, in the Western and Eastern Ghats, Coastal Plains and the Seascapes. It is of interest to note that even at a stage when national parks and sanctuaries were not thought of, and species conservation was in its infancy, Tamil Nadu had some illustrious foresters who had devoted their attention and thought of such concepts which and paved way for the protection and conservation of forests in the country. This State over the period of years has generated vast knowledge through the contribution of these luminaries. The principles of management of Wildlife, prophesized in the works of these illustrious individuals have paved the way for the Government to formulate policies for Forest and Wildlife Conservation.

Forests are not just about trees - it includes all elements, plants, wildlife, water, soil and the human beings dependent on them and even more. It is therefore pertinent that forest services and those who worked in this area be specialized, professionals driven with passion. This is what the Doyens taught us. The Inductees listed in this book were true professionals in their own spheres. These illustrious foresters were the voices of forests as they alerted the nation regarding forests through their actions.

The forestry today has benefitted from the works and writings of these Doyens. The works of these enthusiastic professionals has also today become significant, in the eyes of planners, framers of policy and the general public because of its contribution to livelihood security, economic prosperity and important role forestry provides through goods and services. Thus conservation of forests is the concern of all today. We therefore thought it appropriate at this point of time to bring out the document illustrating the work done by the Foresters and Naturalists, whose work and commitment to forestry will stand to inspire the present and future generations.

This Book includes bio-sketches of botanists, who explored the Western and Eastern Ghats, Mangroves and the Coastal plains enduring the tough terrain and climate to meticulously document every flora, which Serves as reference material even today.

The list of Doyens stated in the Book also includes Forest Educationists and Instructors, Forest Engineers, Plantation experts, who raised excellent plantations of Teak, Rubber, Eucalyptus and other economically important species, which even stand today to speak volumes of their proficient work. This State was also blessed with Wildlifers, Veterinarians, Forest Researchers, Naturalists, Technocrats, Planners, Conservation Biologists, Restoration Experts, Silviculturists, Species specialists and Wildlife Photographers, who have all contributed significantly to the understanding of forest today. We have made a small effort to trace the life of twenty five great forestry professionals of this State. Each of them is a marvel and their inspiring work are spoken widely even today.

We are indebted to all the retired and serving Foresters, who have in some way or other contributed to this book by way of providing information and encouraging us to bring out this document for reference by future Foresters. We wish to place on record our heartfelt gratitude to the first five among the list of present serving foresters, who took efforts in identifying the illustrious Foresters. This compilation is just a beginning of such an effort. It is possible that we would have missed out many a Forester and Doyens of Forestry, who are no more with us, but served the cause of forests and wildlife in the State with dedication and commitment. Their lives will be captured in subsequent editions.

Despite our best efforts, it is possible that some errors may have crept in and the authors owe an apology for any such omissions. To improve on this work, the authors request the readers to kindly offer suggestions and comments without any hesitation.

The authors are extremely thankful to Thiru S. Subbarayalu, IFS (Rtd.), Thiru T. S. Srinivasamurthy IFS, Dr. Balaji IFS, Thiru.V. Prabhakaran, IFS, Dr. Sudhanshu Gupta, IFS, Thiru. K.K. Kaushal, IFS, Tmt.K. Shanthi, Joint Director DIPR, Thriu P. Babu, Senior Photographer and Dr. Jayshree Vencatesan, Mr.G. Ramprasad for their valuable association with this endeavour.

The authors are also thankful to Thiru. R.K. Ojha, IFS, Thiru. Sanjay Srivastava, IFS, Thiru. Rakesh Dogra, IFS of the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project (TBGP) for providing financial support for bringing out this book.

We thank Messrs. PAAR Creative and Evershine Exhibitors who rendered valuable help in designing the book.

The authors further wish to thank all those who have been of support by sharing their knowledge, perspectives and photographs to bring out this valuable treatise, and have not been named individually simply for want of space. Their contributions though is recognized with gratitude. The serenity and majesty of nature at its pristine best as reflected in the cover page photo is an apt testimony for the love for nature of the "Hall of Fame" inductees. ■

V. Ganesan
Conservator of Forests

Dr Rajeev K. Srivastava
Director TNFA

Dr. N Krishnakumar
PCCF and HoD

Dr Rajeev K. Srivastava

V. Ganesan

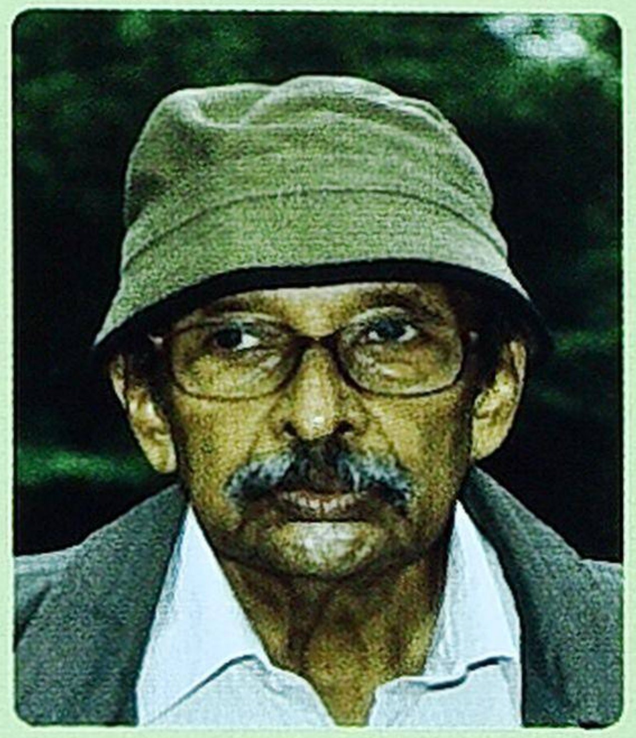
PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE FIVE SENIOR MOST OFFICERS OF TAMIL NADU FOREST DEPARTMENT FOR FINALISING THE LIST OF NAMES FOR "THE HALL OF FAME"

Dated:18.01.2016

The Committee consisting of (1) Thiru. Lakshmi Narayan, IFS., PCCF & Chairman TAFCORN, (2) Thiru. R.K. Ojha, IFS., PCCF & CPD, TBGP (3) Dr. V. K. Melkani, IFS., PCCF & CWLW, (4) Dr. S. Balaji IFS, PCCF (R &E), (5) Thiru. T.S Srinivasamurthy, IFS, PCCF & Chairman ARC Ltd., hereby decide to select the following eminent personalities who contributed for the cause of Forests and Wildlife in the country / Tamil Nadu for inclusion in "The Hall of Fame".

1. H.F.C. Cleghorn
2. D. Brandis
3. R.H. Beddome
4. F.A. Lodge
5. F.C.L. Cowley Brown
6. J.S. Gamble
7. F.A.Wood
8. C.E.C. Fischer
9. C. R. Ranganathan
10. V. S. Krishnaswamy
11. C.A.R. Bhadran
12. T. Jayadev
13. K. Andiappan
14. K. Venkatakrishnan
15. T. Achaya
16. M.A. Badsha
17. S. Kondas
18. J. Wilson
19. S. Sankaramurthy
20. S. Shanmugasundaram
21. V. Krishnamurthy
22. M. Krishnan
23. Richard Radcliff
24. E.R.C. Davidar
25. K. M. Matthew

T.S. Srinivasamurthy S. Balaji V.K. Melkani R.K Ojha Lakshmi Narayan



FOREWORD

Conservation and scientific management of forests in Tamil Nadu can be thought to have commenced on 19th December, 1856, when Hugh Cleghorn (a Civil Surgeon who had shown competence in forestry) was appointed as the First Conservator of Forests of Madras Presidency. Alarmed at the increasing depletion of the forests, the then Viceroy appointed Dr. Dietrich Brandis, a German as the First Inspector General of India's Forests in 1864. With his knowledge, dedication and acumen, he imparted scientific temper to the management of forests of India. He started from Madras Presidency by touring it almost for an year as it had the unique distinction of having already adopted scientific forest management.

Tamil Nadu Forest Academy (erstwhile Madras Forest College) is another feather in the cap of the state as it is the second oldest forestry training institution in the country after Dehradun. It came into existence in 1912 with Cowley Brown as its founder Principal due to the vision and efforts of F.A. Lodge, the then Conservator of Forests, Coimbatore.

Mr. C. R. Ranganathan was its first Indian Principal. Management of the state's forests during the British era and later was possible due to the vision, hard work and dedication of many illustrious foresters who appeared on this timeline of almost 160 years.

Many of these foresters made larger than life contributions to the cause of forestry and immortalized themselves in the history of state forest management. I am delighted that Tamil Nadu Forest Department has made a commendable effort to collate and publish the biographic details and contributions of 25 'larger than life foresters' as Foresters' "Hall of Fame". Amongst them, many were basically from other professions and became foresters by passion. For instance, Cleghorn was a Medical Doctor, Krishnamurthi a Veterinarian, Krishnan a nature Photographer, Radcliff a Naturalist and Davidar was a Planter. I had the great fortune of working with Mr. Wilson, Mr. Andiappan and Mr. Achaya whose contributions are mammoth and memorable.

It is a matter of great pride that the idea for the Foresters' "Hall of Fame" emanated as the vision of an officer of the Indian Administrative Officer, Mr. Hans Raj Verma and it is not a matter of doubt that he would figure in the next hall of fame for his passion for forestry like the non-foresters mentioned earlier. I congratulate the Forest Department for this marvelous effort and place on record my appreciation to Dr. N. Krishna Kumar PCCF and HoD, Dr. Rajeev K. Srivastava, Director TNFA and Thiru V. Ganesan, Conservator of Forests for preparing this treatise in a beautiful manner.

This is an apt tribute to those luminaries and will enthuse and inspire the foresters of present and future generations.

S.Subbarayalu

Doyens of Forestry

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HALL OF FAME

H.F.C. CLEGHORN

Dr. Cleghorn was born in Madras on the 9th August 1820, his father then being Administrator-General in the High Court of Madras. Brought up at Stravithie, Dr. Cleghorn as a boy was trained to rural pursuits and rendered familiar with agricultural routine, and these early lessons no doubt led to that love for flowers and trees which became so pronounced in his life. He was educated at the High School of Edinburgh and at the University of St. Andrews. On leaving college in 1837 he was apprenticed to Professor Syme for five years, and held in the last year the one of the positions in the house surgeons of Edinburgh Royal Infirmary.

After graduating in 1841, he proceeded, at the age of twenty-two, to Madras, where he was attached to the Madras General Hospital to study Indian diseases, while in this post which entailed extensive travels, he had many opportunities for studying the native languages and for broadening his botanical knowledge.

After a short stint in Great Britain, during which he assisted in the preparation of the catalogue of raw products for the great Exhibition of 1851, Dr. Cleghorn returned to India.

His achievements in botany had by this time attracted attention, and he was appointed as Professor of Botany in Madras Medical College . In 1855, the Governor of Madras, Lord Harris, requested Dr. Cleghorn to undertake the task of building a Department

of Forests. He visited Burma and other parts of the country in connection with his inquiries, and presented a preliminary report to the Government embodying the scheme for a Forest Department which was to later become a framework.

In 1861 he returned to Scotland and married Mabel, daughter of the late Mr. Charles Cowan of Penicuik, and formerly M.P. for Edinburgh. On his return to India, he and Sir. D. Brandis were appointed Joint Commissioners for the Conservancy of Forests; and at the request of Lord Canning, Governor-General, Dr. Cleghorn spent three years in examining the forests of the Himalayas, including Cashmere and the trans-Indus territory. Through such labours a systematic plan of conservancy and management was instituted.

In 1867, when Dr. Brandis returned home, Dr. Cleghorn acted as Inspector-General of Forests. Finally, in 1869, Dr. Cleghorn retired from the Indian Service, and his conscientious and able work while a serving as was acknowledged thus: "His long services from the first organization of forest management in Madras have without question greatly conducted to the public good in this branch of administration; and in the Punjab also Dr. Cleghorn's labours have prepared the way for the establishment of an efficient system of conservancy and working the forests of that province."

Settling at Stravithie, he subsequently devoted himself to the life of a country gentleman taking his share in the management of local business and endeavouring to forward every philanthrophy, in the country. As a Justice of the Peace and a prison visitor, he was especially interested in efforts to give discharged prisoners a start in life again.

He was an esteemed member of the Edinburgh Botanical Society and President for several years of the Royal Scottish Arboricultural Society. For many years, likewise, he selected candidates for the Indian Forest Service, and was Examiner in Forestry to the Highland Society. He was an active promoter of the Forestry Exhibition held in Edinburgh in 1883.

To his exertions were largely due, the founding of the Forestry Lecturership in the University of Edinburgh and the promotion of a scheme for the establishment of a Forestry Chair. He was a witness who gave important evidence before the Forestry Committee of the House of Commons. In 1885 the University of St. Andrews bestowed on him the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws, and in 1888 a large number of his friends presented him with his portrait in appreciation of his service to the cause of arboriculture in India and in his own country. The sum of £200 plus was, at his request, devoted to forming a Hugh Cleghorn Forestry Library in the Museum of Science and Art in Edinburgh. In his private life, Dr. Cleghorn was a quiet, gentlemanly, and unassuming in his ways and was greatly esteemed by all with whom he came into contact.

DR.H.F.C. CLEGHORN

FOUNDER OF FOREST CONSERVANCY IN INDIA

HALL OF FAME

D. BRANDIS

Sir. Dietrich Brandis, (1824 -1907) was born in Bonn, Germany. Having studied in the Universities of Copenhagen, Gottingen, Nancy and Bonn, he worked as a Lecturer in Botany in Bonn. The change came in 1854 when he married Rachel Marshman, a sister of the wife of General Havelock, a friend of Lord Dalhousie. This led to his joining the British Imperial Forestry Service in 1856 as the Superintendent of teak forests of Pegu division in Eastern Burma. After the death of his wife, he married Katharina Hasse and they had six children.

His ten year's work in Burma included determination of teak volume, rate of growth, identifying rate of harvest, developing forest protection plans against pests and fire. He introduced timber purchase and clearing rules.

He also introduced the Agro-silviculture (the taungya system) wherein the villagers who laboured for clearing, planting and weeding teak plantations were allowed to plant crops between the tress for a few years. His system "Linear Valuation Survey" useful for obtaining the yield for a particular area, was widely appreciated.

SIR DIETRICH BRANDIS

THE FATHER OF TROPICAL FORESTRY

Brandis as the first Inspector General of Forests had monumental contribution to forestry in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Africa, Europe and the USA. He authored more than 250 books, research papers, reports and articles in English and German.

Brandis was of the view that Indians should manage forestry with scientific bent of mind. With this in mind he selected Dehradun to be the seat of the Imperial Forest School.

Brandis toured the length and breath of the sub-continent, formulating management and silvicultural treatment. After serving with the Indian Government for 19 years, he returned to Europe where he continued to shape the future of Forestry in India and many other countries.

He was instrumental in getting the Indian Forest Act 1865 and subsequent amendment during 1878 for the protection of forests.

Along with Dr. H.F.C. Cleghorn, he laid the foundation for the Indian Forest Service in the year 1866. As a first step he got two special Assistant Conservator of Forests Dr. W.Schlich and Mr. B.Ribbentrop appointed to the service of India.

Brandis had documented the sacred groves in Rajputana, the woodlands of Mysore, the Garo and Khasia hills, the Devarakadus of Coorg, the hill ranges of Salem, Swami Sholas on the Yelagiris, the sacred grove at Pudur on the Javadis and the forests on the Shevaroys.

After his retirement, he continued work on Indian Forestry. In a detailed 340 pages report about the Madras Forest Act and his inspection of various forests, he had delved on his observations on the timber potential of the Anamalai forests, the reserves of Udumalpet, Pollachi, Bolampatti, Attapadi valleys and the Nilgiris. His narration has been very useful in the subsequent decades in monitoring the growth of teak in these areas.

His untiring passion towards forestry saw him starting on his principal work, "Indian Trees", describing about 400 species, even at the ripe age of 75. It was first published in 1906 and re-issued several times since then. His earliest botanical work was Flora of North – West and Central India. ■

HALL OF FAME

R.H. BEDDOME

The wonderful transformation of a British Military Officer to the Conservator of Forests came naturally to Colonel Richard Henry Beddome, as he had a penchant for nature.

Born as the eldest son of Boswell Brandon Beddome in S.W., he got trained for the legal profession, but landed up at the 42nd Madras Native Infantry as a Cadet at Jabalpur, when he was just 18 being his choice.

He was appointed in the Madras Forest Department in 1856, he went on to become an Assistant to Dr. Hugh Cleghorn, and his devotion to botany and natural history saw him succeed Cleghorn in 1863 and he remained in the post of Conservator of Forests upto 1876.

A wholesome botanist by heart, he devoted his time to the study of flora in South India and published a series of valuable works with striking illustrations with great accuracy. He also studied the species of reptiles, amphibians, was an

authority on molluscs and provided descriptions of over 40 new reptiles and amphibians. He also described over a thousand species of animals and plants.

His fine and rare collections of land shell specimens were placed at the British and Indian Museums. He has reported on the The Flora of Pulney Hills, Courtallam Hills, Eastern & Western Ghats and Tirupati Hills. He accompanied Dr. Cleghorn during 1858 for the expedition and explorations of Anamalais. He served as a Forest Officer of Tirunelveli District and explored every inch of the forests and documented the flora.

Wall (1921) has paid tribute to Colonel Beddome with the remark, "He has exploited the South Indian Hills that he has hardly left a snake for any later enthusiast to discover." His collection and description of the reptile, "Golden Gecko" is worth mentioning and a distinct plant species, "Cycas" was named after him as *Cycas. beddomei.*

Among the many books he authored, The Ferns of British India & Ceylon is referred till date. His other works are The Flora Sylvatica for Southern India, Forester's Manual of Botany for Southern India, numerous descriptions of Land-shells from Southern India, Ceylon, Island of Koror and many Notes on new Mollusca from Columbia and Assam. Beddome married Mary Sophia Fullerton in London during 1862 and had seven children. Retiring from his passion in 1892, he lived at Wandsworth until his end in 1911.Like Dr. Cleghorn, consolidation and conservation of forests was his sole aim and as a tribute to his monumental contribution, many a species of plants and animals have been named after him. The botany laboratory in Madras Forest College (TNFA) was also named after Beddome. ▪

COL. R.H. BEDDOME

A TAXONOMIST PAR EXCELLENCE

HALL OF FAME

F.A. LODGE

A true visionary, F.A. Lodge received his professional training in forestry from the Forest School of France and joined the Imperial Forest Service in Madras Presidency during 1883, and served his cadre in the capacities of Assistant, Deputy and Conservator of Forests and after retirement he served as Inspector General of Forests at Hyderabad in the Nizam Kingdom. He was a Companion of the Order of the Indian Empire (CIE).

He has expressed his vision, in a letter to the then Governor of Madras State, in which he desired to have a College in Southern India by taking into account the hardships faced by the trainees in the Himalayas, while training at Dehradun. The letter of historic interest, dated 11th December 1907, goes thus. .. "before long it will be found that the Dehradun College cannot take in enough men to supply the needs of all India, it will then be necessary to open a separate college for Southern India rangers to which men from Madras, Mysore, Travancore, Hyderabad and Bombay can be

F.A. LODGE
A VISIONARY FOREST ADMINISTRATOR

sent for their training and no more suitable position for such a college can be found than the vicinity of the Agricultural College shortly to be opened near Coimbatore...."

Five years down the line, his constant efforts paid off and resulted in the establishment of the Madras Forest College in 1912, in an area of over 165 acres, now named as Tamil Nadu Forest Academy.

F.A. Lodge was at that time, placed on special duty for the purpose of organizing the main principles of working and of purchasing the necessary equipment. Cowley Brown was then appointed as the Principal with three Instructors.

At the foundation laying ceremony, his Excellency remarked "....I can now at least claim to understand something of the need of scientific instruction within the reach of the men in the forest service of this Presidency, instead of sending them to learn their first lessons in forest work in strange forests under different conditions...."

F.A. Lodge prepared the Forest Code in 1921. He reorganized the department under two circles. A Forest School was established at Nizamabad for training subordinate staff. He also outlined the reservation of important forest tracts and their systematic exploitation.

When Gass, the first Curator of Forest Museum retired, F.A. Lodge renamed the museum in his honour. Tamil Nadu Forest Academy, now imparts professional training in forestry to Rangers and Senior categories. A number of short term, refresher and theme-based service courses have been introduced to upgrade their knowledge, to build up their technical and administrative capacities, for meeting new challenges.

F.A. Lodge can be proclaimed as the Father of Forestry Training in the South. His vision can be cherished by all the Southern Foresters. He deserves the credit for creating the post of Chief Conservator of Forests in Madras Presidency. His valuable efforts in this direction borne fruits in the year 1919 when Hon. S. Cox was appointed as the first Chief Conservator of Forests, Madras Presidency. ■

HALL OF FAME

F.C.L. COWLEY BROWN

The main road abutting the Tamil Nadu Forest academy Campus in the city of Coimbatore bears his name. That shows the remarkable achievement of a man with a strong will and determination.

Cowley Brown was a legendary member of the Imperial Forest Service who received his professional forestry training from Royal Indian Engineering College, Cooper's hill and joined the forest department of Madras Presidency in the year 1891. With more than 20 years of rich experience in the forests of the then Madras Presidency, he joined the Madras Forest College as the founder Principal in the year 1912. He selected wisemen like K.R. Venkatramana Ayyar as Instructor which speaks volumes for his organizing ability and vision to give good shape to the College and Training. Initially, the college functioned from the municipal hospital building with three instructors. Mr. Cowley Brown

got the foundation of the new college building laid by His Excellency, Lord Pentland, the Governor of Madras, on 9th April 1913. Two years later, the same was inaugurated by him on14th October 1915, in a sprawling campus of 165 acres.

The majestic college building with its unique red-brick finish, represents an elegant Indo-Saracenic architecture and even today, stands as a prominent landmark in Coimbatore city. It was really tough for Mr. Cowley Brown to develop the various compartments in the campus to lead the trainees to silviculture and other related studies. The whole campus layout reflects his vision. With his knowledge of architecture, he had personally supervised the construction of the buildings.

His frequent visits to the campus during the development of the library and other resource places enhanced the facilities further. He was instrumental in the collection of important notes, gadgets and books of forestry. Mr. Cowley Brown developed the curriculum for the training himself and gave due emphasis to field and hands-on training.

Though being a strict disciplinarian, he imparted training with passion. Some of his students have proved to be outstanding officers in the field. Because of his passion for training , he served as the Principal during 1912 to 1915 and again from 1917 to 1920. ■

F.C.L. COWLEY BROWN

A FORESTRY EDUCATOR BEYOND COMPARE

HALL OF FAME

J.S. GAMBLE

Born in London in 1846, J.S. Gamble had his formal education at the Royal Naval School, Math at Magdalen College, Oxford. Received forestry training in Forest School in Nancy, France where he studied Systematic Botany with great interest.

The year 1871 saw Gamble join the Imperial Forest Department in India. He founded the Forest School Herbarium in 1890 while he was serving as Director of the Imperial Forest School at Dehradun. It was later renamed as the Dehradun Herbarium in 1908.

A leader in his own way, James Sykes Gamble specialized in the flora of India with many a journal to his credit. He has authored many books and published papers on Forestry and botanical subjects in the Indian Forester, for which he was the Editor. Among his many books on Indian Plants are : List of the trees, shrubs and large climbers found in the Darjeeling District, Bengal, the Bambuseae of British India, Annals of the Royal Botanic Garden, Calcutta.

J.S. GAMBLE

A LIGHTHOUSE OF KNOWLEDGE ON INDIAN PLANTS

Flora of the Presidency of Madras is a monumental work describing about 130 plant novelties from the erstwhile Madras Presidency alone. Started in 1915, his death in 1925 interrupted the work on the publication.

His *magnum opus* was A Manual of Indian Timbers: An Account of the Growth, Distribution and Uses of the Trees and shrubs of India and Ceylon with Description of Their Wood-Structure. It was collected for the Paris exhibition of 1878, prepared by a Committee consisting of Brandis, Gamble and Smythies. Gamble married Gertrude Latter in 1911.

He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in1899 and cited as 'Conservator of Forests, School Circle, NW Provinces, India, and Director of the Imperial Forest School, Dehradun'. Fellow of the University of Madras, and ex-officio Fellow of the University of Allahabad.

He was one of the important contributors of "Fischer Herbarium". Two genera, a tree from Sikkim and a fungus found on leaves have been named "Gamblea" and "Gambleola" in honour of Gamble. His name is also commemorated in many species of plants he collected.

More than 25 years after he left India, Gamble breathed his last, at his home at Hants, England during October 1925 at the age of 78. The project of Flora of Madras Presidency was then completed by Mr. C.E.C. Fischer.

Though he started his career initially in Burma and Bengal, he got transferred to Madras Presidency as Conservator of Forests on All India Transfer in the year 1882 and was borne on Madras Presidency cadre. He served as the Head of the Forest Department in Madras Presidency during 1882 – 1885.

He will ever remain in hearts of every Indian Forester for his contributions to Botany and Flora. ■

HALL OF FAME

H.F.A. WOOD

Mr. Hugo Francis Andrew Wood after joining the Imperial Forest Service in 1890, received his professional training at Royal Indian Engineering College at Cooper's Hill, came to India during 1893 and worked in Madras Presidency up to his retirement in 1926. He worked in various capacities, as Assistant Conservator of Forests, Deputy Conservator of Forests and rose to the rank of Conservator of Forests in 1918 and retired in 1926.

He is remembered for his work in the Godavari, Kurnool and South Coimbatore Forsest Divisions. Despite his ill health on account of malaria ridden forests, he worked without a break for almost ten years. He prevented serious forest fires by practicing early burning of grass.

He tackled the unruly aborigine Chenchu who, with their bow and arrow had intimidated everyone, pursuing the easy way of timber thieving, robbery and blackmail. Wood tackled the problem by providing them labour in teak plantations, by instituting provision stores and civilizing influences of all kinds. He had such a great influence over the people that even after he had left the district, they revered his presence.

He was unrivalled as the mentor of the young officers and their later achievements bear ample testimony to his qualities. He was modest and very kind to the people around him.

He is renowned for his work at the Anamalai Hills of Coimbatore. As the teak of the area provided supplies to the construction of ships of the Royal Navy, regenerating the trees became a major task which he faced boldly in spite of the difficulties due to lack of water, labour and malaria. He formulated a working plan of his own for raising teak plantations and was a truly 'a hands on' professional.

During 1916-17, he experimented near his Mount Stuart residence and in the Ulandy valley and proved that teak plantations could be raised successfully from seed source at a reasonable cost. He was the Working Plan Officer and advocated 'concentrated artificial regeneration' method of teak and substantial areas were brought under teak plantations till 1937. This, he accomplished by living not in the comfort of a forest bungalow, but in a bamboo hut on the edge of his plantation.

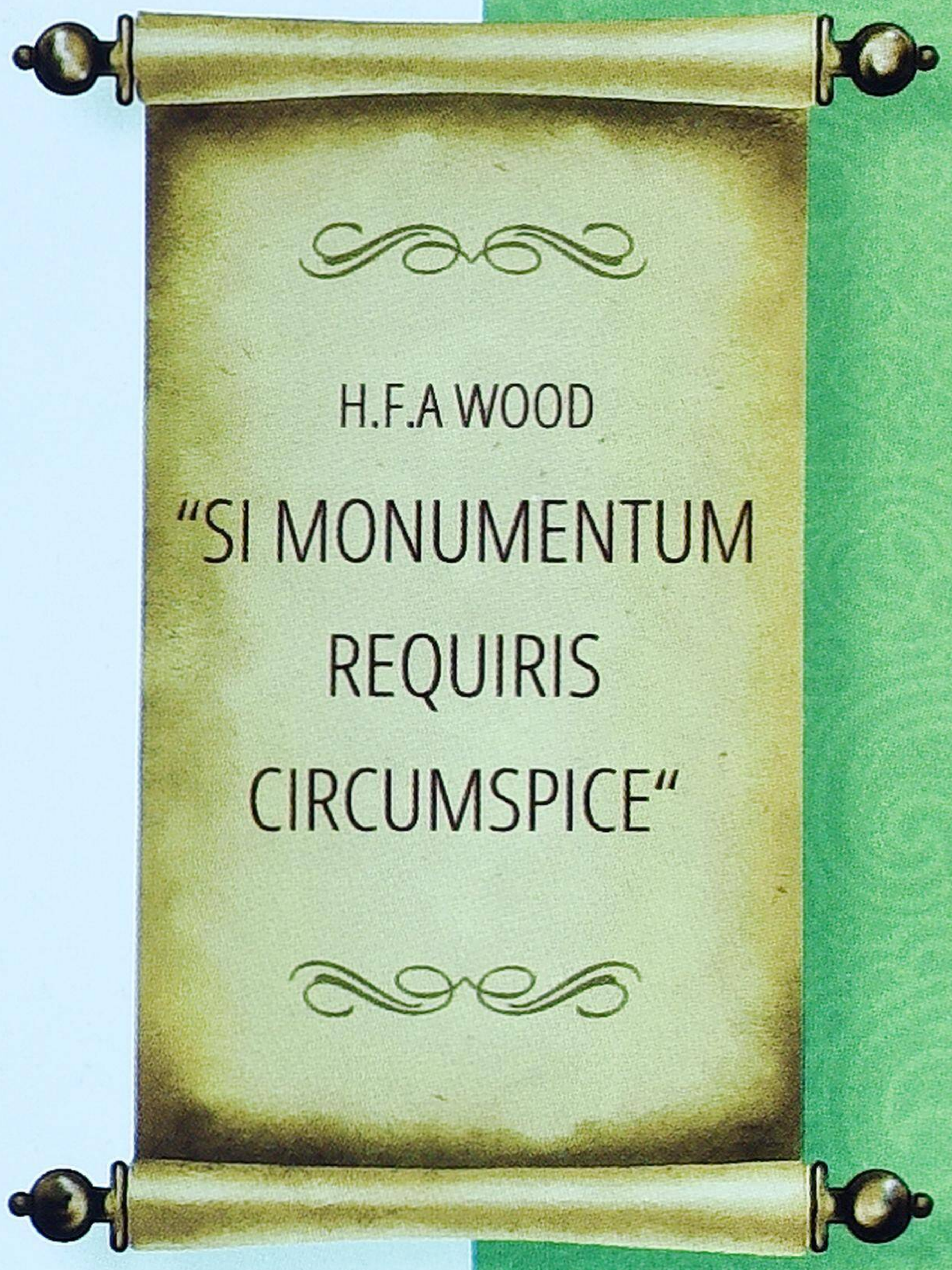
A sportsman in the true sense of the word, he was as kind and generous to the wild animals as to his fellow man.

Retiring to Ootacamund, Wood devoted himself to gardening and fishing in which he was exceedingly successful.

Mr. Wood died in Ootacamund on 12.12.1933 at the age of 63. At his own request, Wood was laid to rest among the plantations he created at Anamalais.

His interest in the work of the department was dedicated and unflagging. The early teak plantations raised by him near the Mount Stuart forest bungalow encircle his grave even today. This area has been demarcated as a permanent preservation plot in his honour, a living memorial to him. The monument is one of the unique sites so much so, each of the training batch of Forest Guards, Foresters, Rangers, SFS and IFS Probationers never miss the opportunity to visit this legendary spot.

The inscriptions on the grave is very simple reads as "SI MONUMENTUM REQUIRS CIRCUMSPICE" meaning, " If you want to see me, look around". Such is the inspiring message left by Hugo Wood for the next generations. ■



HALL OF FAME

C.E.C. FISCHER

Fischer was born in Bombay in July 1874. He was tutored in Switzerland and England with a term at Nancy in France where he learned forestry.

While being posted at Madras, in the year 1895, he served various places before becoming a Divisional Forest Officer in1909 and Principal of the Madras Forest College. He served as the Conservator of Forests from 1920 till his retirement in 1926.

In between the years (1907), he was the Forest Entomologist at the Forest Research Institute, Dehradun and during 1908 had a period of study at Munich, Germany. Later, he was deputed as a Lecturer in Forestry to Oxford during 1919-20.

During the course of his frequent visits to the Anaimalais, being a correspondent, he sent his collections of botanical specimens , to the herbarium of the Royal Botanical Garden, Calcutta. Later published it as Records of the Botanical Survey of India in 1921.

Fischer's contribution remains as one of the highly rated and comprehensive accounts of the flora. He made use of every opportunity to investigate the floristic information of the western extremity of the Anaimalais, when he was in charge of the Coimbatore South Division (presently Anamalai Tiger Reserve).

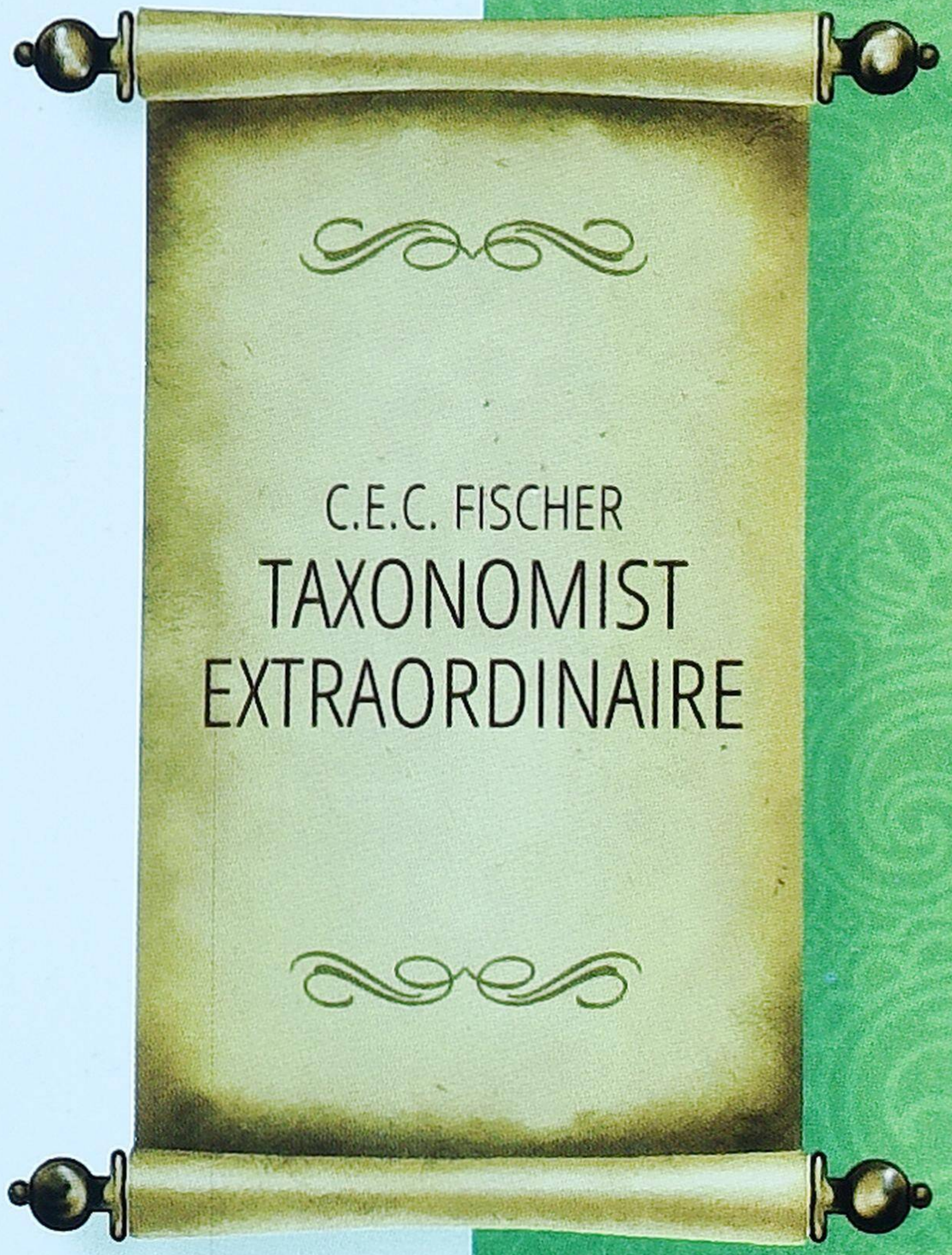
His Original herbarium specimens and types were deposited in Kew Herbarium (K), Central National Herbarium, Howrah (CAL), Herbarium of Royal Botanical Garden, Edinburgh (E) and Swedish Museum Natural History, Stockholm (S). The majority of specimens obtained were sent to the herbarium of the Royal Botanical Garden, Calcutta. His collections were indentified either at the Royal Botanical Gardens, Calcutta or at the Royal Botanical Garden, Kew, England. His duplicate collections were deposited in the Forest Research Centre, (presently named as Fischer Herbarium, Coimbatore, from 1988 onwards, since his collections were treated as nucleus collection in this herbarium) and a few collection in Madras Herbarium (MH) under the control of Botanical Survey of India (BSI), Southern Circle, Coimbatore. His collections were from the localities of Upper Nilgiris, Pulneys, Anaimalais and N. Coimbatore (now partly in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka), Simhachalam hills of Andhra Pradesh and Ganjam District of Orissa.

He had published about 80 papers on the vegetation of India and Burma out of which 33 papers were connected to the erstwhile presidency of Madras. He had dealt with 97 plants of which 45 were new to science.

Fischer was undoubtedly the most competent man at that time or the "only man" to complete the unfinished Flora of the Madras Presidency. His contributions to the Flora of the erstwhile Madras Presidency will remain in the History of Indian Botany as a monumental work.

Shortly after the Second World War, his wife's illness drove him from London near Maidenhead on the River Thames where he nursed her and in his leisure, made Braille books for the visually impaired. His end came during October 1950 at the age of 76 due to a ruptured blood vessel.

His monumental work on Botany and Forestry will be remembered throughout the annals of time. ■



HALL OF FAME

C.R. RANGANATHAN

C.R. Ranganathan was born on August 15, 1899 in Thanjavur District. Armed with a University Rank in Chemistry Masters from the Madras University, he was selected for training abroad in 1921. As a Probationer he was sent to Exeter College of Oxford University U.K. for a course on forestry. He passed M.A. Forestry ranking first among the IFS Officers of his batch from the Oxford, Cambridge and Edinburg Universities and was awarded the Currie Prize. He joined Madras Forest Department in 1923 as Assistant Conservator of Forests, North Coimbatore. In 1924, he was posted as Imperial Assistant in the Timber Engineering Branch, Forest Research Institute, Dehradun.

He was reverted to parent cadre after a couple of years as Assistant Conservator of Forests, Palghat, Beypore and Coimbatore, rising to become Deputy Conservator of Forests of Wynad Division by the end of 1927. Mr.C.R. Ranganathan was on special duty under the Conservator of Forests, III Circle at Ootacamund and reported as Working Plan Officer at Coimbatore.

His contributions to Working Plans in Madras province has been really outstanding. He prepared Working Plans for North Coimbatore, Kollegal, North Salem and Nilgiris Forest Divisions. His theory of Dual Climax about Montane sholas and grasslands is a pioneering one and still treasured for the scientific value. For his paper on Shola and grass lands he was awarded Schlich Prize.

C.R. RANGANATHAN

A TRUE FORESTER AND A GREAT MENTOR

After serving as Forest Utilisation Officer at Madras, he moved on to become Director, Indian Forest Rangers College, Dehradun on deputation with Government of India, from 1938 to1945. His contribution to Forestry Education in India will be in perpetual reckoning. He was an ardent advocate of a dynamic and progressive definition for sustained yield by enriching the forests with valuable and superior species. He envisioned forests as an arboreal Kamadhenu – which will provide benefits forever, with even an ordinary protection.

He restarted the Madras Forest College after World War II and served as the first Indian Principal with distinction for two years (1945 – 1947). He has the envious distinction of having trained 750 Forest Rangers, as Director of Forest Education, Dehradun.

In 1948, he was appointed to officiate as Chief Conservator of Forest, Madras without prejudice to his appointment at Dehradun as Director of Forest Education. The next 6 years saw him as the Chief Conservator of Forests on deputation with Government of India, as President, Forest Research Institute.

C.R.Ranganathan received international recognition. In 1954, he was elected the President of the Fourth World Forestry Congress. This was followed by his election as Honorary member of the Society of American Foresters, the German Academy of Agricultural Sciences of Barlesi and the Finnish Academy of Forestry. He wrote a book on Forest Management which even now serves as a standard reference book in Forest Colleges.

He succeeded Mr. M.D. Chaturvedi as the Inspector General of Forests and served with distinction from 1954 – 1957.Ultimately he retired from Government service.

Mr. Ranganathan's forestry career which spanned 36 years covered diverse fields and in each his imprints had stamp of his greatness. Those who were privileged to work with him remember him as a man of dignity, integrity and warmth who did his duty with a great sense of justice and fair play. He was respected and admired for his intellectual eminence, uncompromising principles and high standard of personal conduct.

After retirement, Mr. Ranganathan joined the Fertilizer Association of India as Executive Director and during his tenure of 15 years he built up that organization from scratch.

In an era of declining moral standards men like C.R. Ranganathan stand like colossus in the annals of history which leave us dreaming of reemergence of men like him. ■

HALL OF FAME

V.S. KRISHNASWAMY

V.S. Krishnaswamy, born on 12th August 1903, is revered for noteworthy contribution to the cause of forestry in Tamil Nadu which will be always remembered.

V.S. Krishnaswamy, was one among the two probationers selected and received professional training in forestry at Indian Forest College, Dehradun between 1927 and 1929. On allotment to Madras cadre, he recevied field training initially in Wynaad at Manantoddy, Malabar District, where he learnt about teak and private forest management and the nuance of capturing elephants by pit method.

During his Range training, he mastered the art of sleeper operations of Hopea and Mesua and about the lifestyle of Kurichiyar tribes of Wynaad. After training at Ooty and Coimbatore North Division, he became a Double Lock Officer, Sandalwood Depot, Sathyamangalam, where his Conservator Sri.K.R. Venkataramana Ayyar imparted valuable knowledge about sandalwood.

After serving Nellore Division, he wrote working Plans for Cuddapah, Kurnool, Ananthapur, Chittor, Bellary, Coimbatore North, Kollegal, Madurai and Tirunelveli for almost 6 years. His talks were broadcast by All India Radio and he prepared

comprehensive reports on charcoal and firewood supply. During the three decades of his career, he held charge of Madurai Territorial Division covering Madurai, Dindigul, Theni, a part of Tiruchy and Pudukottai. Even today, one can see the *Schleichera oleosa* trees in Cumbum valley, which stand as a green memorial for his work. When he was the Central Silviculturist, he successfully conducted the VII Silvicultural Conference in 1951.

He prepared the II Five Year Plan for Madras Forest Department and he pioneered the cashew and canal bank teak plantations, which is a tremendous testimony to his remarkable work. It has not only added huge revenue to the Government but also enthused interest in the farmers to take up teak plantation in their fields. It is considered as his greatest contribution to forestry. In 1956, he opened a new division for teak production at Thanjavur covering areas of Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Nagapattinam, Chidambaram, Tiruchi and Tirunelveli.

When he was the Chief Conservator of Forests during 1956 to 1958, he attended the World Eucalyptus Conference. He convened the first ever technical conference of the forest officers in India. It was during his tenure as Chief Conservator of Forest,Kanyakumari District was surveyed for raising Rubber Plantations.

After retirement from Service he served as Consultant to a Rayon Company in Kerala.

He brought out several publications on tree species and wrote several articles in Indian Forester.

The Cashew Plantation areas presently available in the administrative control of TAFCORN were developed by his pioneering efforts and the credit goes to him.

Present-day foresters still refer to his book, "Thoughts on Indian Forestry". He retired in 1958 and passed away in November 1969 at Madras. His monumental work on Cashew and Teak is priceless. ■

V.S. KRISHNASWAMY

A GREAT VISIONARY AND A PURE PIONEER VALUED EVEN NOW FOR CASHEW AND TEAK HE PROMOTED

HALL OF FAME

C.A.R. BHADRAN

Chakrapani Ayyangar Rama Bhadran was born on 24th September 1907. His father Chakrapani Ayyangar was Vice-Principal, Raja's College, Pudukottai. C.A.R.Bhadran did his M.A. on Geology and Botany in the year 1928 and passed out with top position, from the Presidency College, Madras and received University prize for Geology. He appeared for the Indian Forest Service Examination during 1930 and he was the sole candidate selected. He was deputed to undergo professional training in forestry during 1930-32 batch at Indian Forest College, Dehradun. He passed out as topper and was awarded Currie fellowship.

On completion of training, he entered the IFS on 15-11-1932 and was placed in Assam Cadre. In Assam, he worked in various wings of the Forest Department, during 1933-35 in Wildlife divisions, 1935-36 in Working Plan, 1936-1941 in territorial divisions and 1941-45 as Forest Utilisation Officer. He was conferred the distinction of Member of British Empire (MBE) during the year 1944.

Mr. Bhadran married Smt. Gowrie Rani, sister of then Raja of Kollengode and moved to Forest Research Institute on deputation, and served from 1945-1950 for about 5 years at Forest Research Institute as Principal of Indian Forest College and Director of Forest Education. He also served as Publicity and Liaison Officer.

He went to Madras State in the year 1950 and served as District Forest Officer, Madurai Division and later Conservator of Forests, Working Plan & Development Circle. He became the Deputy Inspector General of Forests in the Ministry of Agriculture in which capacity he served from 1955 to 1958. Mr. Bhadran served the Madras Forest Department as its Chief Conservator from 12-08-1958 to 23-09-1962. After his retirement in September 1962 as the Chief Conservator of Forests of the then Madras State, he was taken by the Food & Agricultural Organisation (F.A.O.) as Forestry Expert in February 1964 and subsequently for about 5 years he worked as Project Manager, Forestry Development with Government of Jordan.

Mr. Bhadran was not only an eminent Forester but also an expert in Grass-land and Watershed Management. He was very well known in India and visited U.K. and other European countries, Thailand, U.S.A., Surinam, Jordan and Middle East in connection with studying forestry problems and extending advice. He was very well respected for his professional knowledge which reflected itself in various writings. He always loved to visit Dehradun and met not only his old friends but also the younger generation. As Professor Emeritus of the Indian Forest College, he regularly visited Forest Resarch Institute, Dehradun delivered very informative lectures. His last visit was in March 1975 when he was hale and healthy and nobody expected that just 2 years after, death would come and deprive us of his guidance and interesting talks. He expired in Hospital at Madras during 1977 after a brief illness. On his retirement, a rich Legacy of Indian Forest Service came to an abrupt end in the year 1962. ▪

C.A.R. BHADRAN
LAST LINK OF INDIAN FOREST SERVICE

HALL OF FAME

T. JAYADEV

Born on 28th February 1921 in Pondicherry, brought up in Coimbatore District. Mr. Jayadev did his B.Sc., (Hons) in Chemistry in the Presidency College and served as Lecturer in Pachaiyappa's College. Selected for the Superior Forest Service of the Madras State, he received preliminary training at Coimbatore North Division towards the end of 1943 and joined the Indian Forest College for two years professional training during April, 1944.

On completion of the training with Honours Diploma joined for training in Nilambur division (Kerala State). After completing field training he was posted as Assistant Conservator of Forests and Instructor at Madras Forest College during 1947-1948. Then he was attached to Coimbatore South Division (Anamalais) as a Gazetted Assistant under District Forest Officer. After serving as Assistant Forest Utilization Officer for a brief period, he was posted as District Forest Officer, Cudappah South Division, District Forest Officer, Nellore Division, District Forest Officer, Nellore South Division from 1948-1951. He held on additional charge Nellore North Division also. He joined as Working Plan Officer, Nilgiris Working Plan Division and produced a classic Working Plan revising the working plan written by Mr. C.R.Ranganathan. On completion of Working Plan assignment, he served as District Forest Officer,

T. JAYADEV

EVER GREEN FOREST CHIEF OF TAMIL NADU

Madurai West Division for more than a year during 1953-1954.

He moved to the State Headquarters as Forest Utilization Officer, Madras towards end of 1954 and served in that capacity for about three months. He was deputed for professional training in Tropical Forestry in U.S.A., from 4th March to 9th June, 1955. On return from foreign trip, he was elevated to the rank of Conservator of Forests and got posted to Salem Circle with effect from 10th June 1955. During his Conservatorship at Salem, he was deputed to United Kingdom from 16th June to 3rd August, 1959. After serving with distinction nearly four years in Salem Circle, he was posted to Madurai Circle during October, 1959.

He was elevated to the rank of Chief Conservator of Forests in the year 1962, which post he took charge from C.A.R. Badhran, IFS and remained in that rank for a long period of 17 years till February, 1979.

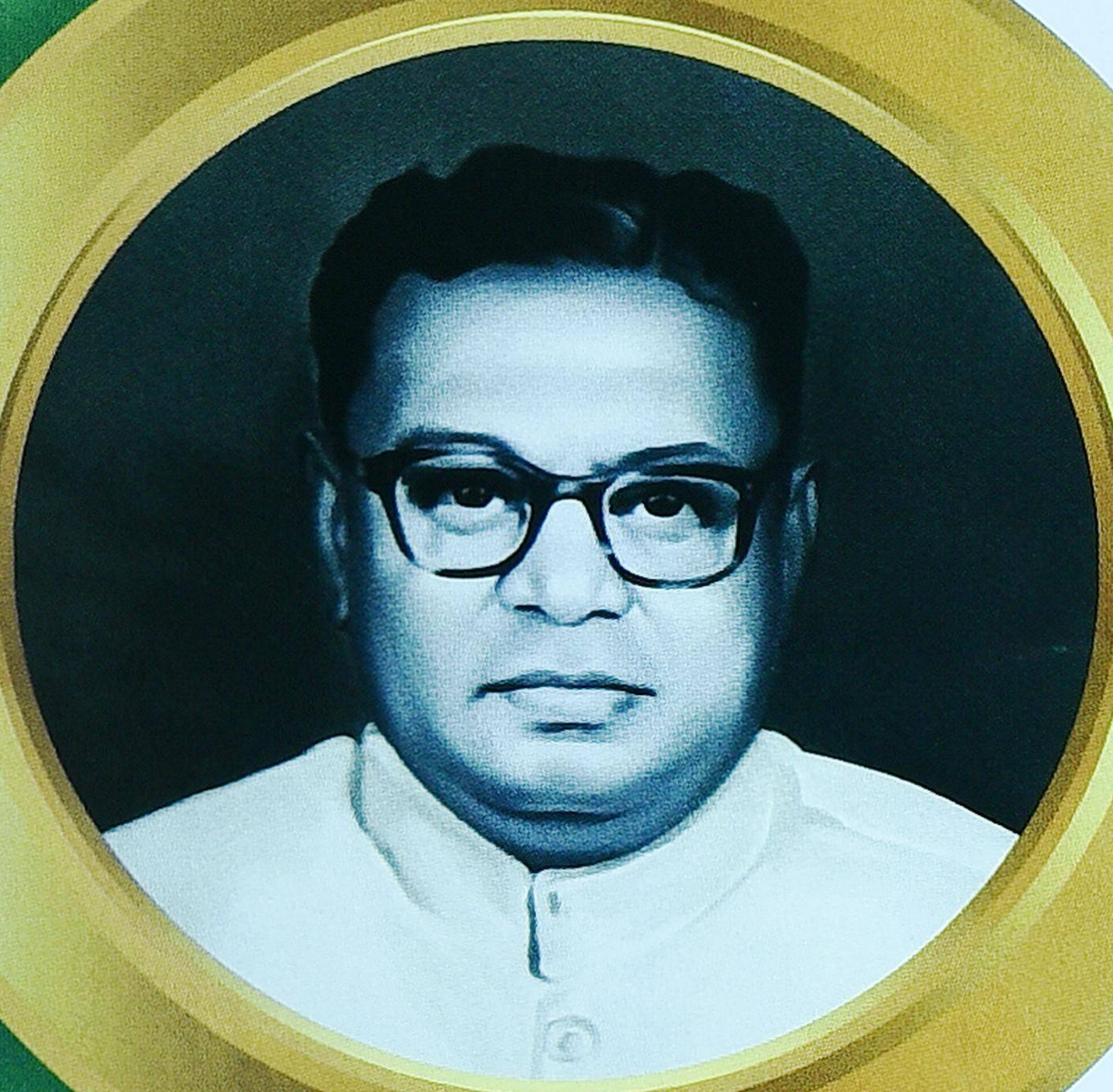
He is one of the brilliant officers of the Superior Forest Service of the Madras State. Initially, from 1962-1970, he served as Chief Conservator of Forests and implemented successfully various Plan Schemes under III, IV and VI Five Year Plans in Tamil Nadu giving importance for protection and production forestry. Wildlife Wing in the Forest Department got strengthened under the able leadership of Mr. Jayadev and willing contributions of Mr.Mohamed Ansar Badsha, the first State Wildlife Officer in Madras State.

During his tenure as Chief Conservator, initial recruitment to Indian Forest Service happened w.e.f 01-10-1966. He handled the process efficiently and he himself got inducted as initial recruit in IFS, while serving as Chief Conservator of Forests. During 1970-1975 for a period of five years, he was on deputation to the State of Nagaland and contributed much to the Forest and Wildlife development in that State. He created a Zoo at Kohima which became a great centre of attraction to the residents of the town. On return from Nagaland back to Madras, he served for tenure as Chief Conservator of Forests till his retirement in February, 1979. He handed over the charge to Mr. R. Pasupathi, IAS., and got superannuated. He will be remembered for his professional competence and sterling qualities ever in the department.

In the history of the Tamil Nadu Forest Department, he is the Forest Chief with 17 years standing which is an all time record in the Indian Forestry. ■

HALL OF FAME

K. ANDIAPPAN



Born on 21st December, 1911 as the eldest son on Mr. Kulanthaiappan & Mrs. Pichaiammal at Mamasapuram, a Village near Srivilliputtur. He had his primary education at Church Missionary Society School in Srivilliputtur and later joined Sivakasi Hindu Nadars Victoria High School in Sivakasi – Stood as a School Topper. Completed intermediate in National College, Trichy and Honours Degree in Economics from St. Joseph's College, Trichy in 1934. In those days, the University Training Corps (UTC) was meant to impart regular Army Training to young university students. The training was intensive and vigorous on the pattern of regular British Army. He became a Sergeant in the second year, Company Sergeant Major in the third year and became an Under Officer in the fourth and fifth years. This Army training was very useful, when he became the Instructor in the Forest College, Coimbatore. Besides, the UTC training provided him necessary physical fitness and culture required for exacting field work of Forest Service when roads and vehicles were not many in use.

Mr. Andiappan started his career in Madras Forest Department in 1935, though trained as a Ranger, served

K. ANDIAPPAN

A DEDICATED FORESTER IN EVERY SENSE

as a Forester at Ambasamudram and got elevated to the post of Assistant Conservator of Forests on 01-10-1945 and served at Nellore on promotion.

As an Assistant Conservator of Forests, he had been responsible for implementing Javadis Road Scheme at Tiruppattur before Independence, and later served for a while, as Forest Engineer at Coimbatore. He joined Madras Forest College as Instructor, served as House Tutor and Warden also. After about three years stay at Madras Forest College, he served as the District Forest Officer, Tirunelveli division for about three years during 1950-53. Before his elevation as Conservator of Forests in 1956, he held the important forest divisions such as Wynad and Madurai East, Assistant Conservator of Forests on special duty for road construction at Pollachi.

As the Conservator of Forests he served in Madurai , Salem, Coimbatore and Development Circles and contributed to the protection and productivity of these important Circles. He was a strict disciplinarian, would not tolerate incompetence, and executed works with perfection.

He was one of the very committed officers of the yester years who was inducted into IFS with effect from 01-10-1966 as an initial recruit and served the department with distinction throughout his career till retirement. He was known for his practical knowledge in every branch of forestry including forest engineering, especially road works. The Palani-Kodaikanal ghat road was laid by him which stand as a testimony for his skill and professional competence.

All those students of his in the Southern Forest Ranger's College, Coimbatore and others who had the opportunity of working with him shall unanimously proclaim that "Mr. Andiappan was an upright forester whose life and breath were forests".

The mortal remains of this ardent lover of forests were let by his children at the confluence of the rivers Thambaraparani and Servalar in the deep Pothigai forests of Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu as per his wish – 'a true forester indeed'. ■

HALL OF FAME

K. VENKATAKRISHNAN

Born in Tirunelveil District, Mr. Venkatakrishnan graduated with B.A. Degree in Botany and stood first in Madras Presidency in 1941 and worked as Demonstrator in St. Joseph's College Trichy for two years. He got Post Graduate Degree in Botany from the Presidency College and stood first in the Madras Presidency during 1945. He worked as Assistant Lecturer in Natural Science in the Government College, Mangalore.

He was selected for the post of Assistant Conservator of Forests by the MPSC and sent to do a two-year course in Forestry in the University of Edinburgh. On completion of training, joined the department in the year 1948, attached to Mangalore Division during 1948 – 1951. He served as District Forest Officer, Kurnool East Division, Kurnool West Division, South Kanara Division, Coimbatore South Division, Salem South Division, Tirunelveli South Division, Hosur Division for over a decade and enriched his practical knowledge in Forestry.

He was deputed for training in rubber planting and processing to Malaysia under the Technical Assistance Programme of the United Nations in 1962 – 63. He served as

General Manager, Government Rubber Plantations for 10 years. During his tenure only, larger areas brought under Rubber cultivations and many divisions were formed. He was the "Architect of Rubber Plantations." While he was the Conservator of Forests in Salem circle, he solved the problem of sandalwood dryage from forest depot to final cleaning depot without doing rough cleaning in the forest depot. With the result dryage ratification proposals to the Government came to an end. This was the remarkable administrative order appreciated by many foresters especially by subordinates of the department who faced charge sheets for excess dryage of sandalwood. He was very straight forward and had innovative ideas. A God fearing gentleman, never used harsh words with any one. His reviews used to be educative. An ideal personality with very good habits.

He retired as Additional Chief Conservator of Forests (Planning & Development) in the year 1978. After retirement, he worked as Forest Consultant in South India Viscose Ltd Coimbatore for 6 years. He worked for the National Applied Economic Research Organization in evaluating the results of the work done under the Social Forestry Programmes in West Bengal and Assam. He served as Chairman of a committee constituted by the Tamil Nadu Government on the direction of the Supreme Court to define what constitute "Forest".He is remembered as a legend in Forest Department with erudite scholarship.

K. VENKATAKRISHNAN

THE MAN BEHIND RUBBER PLANTATIONS

HALL OF FAME

T. ACHAYA

Mr. Achaya was born in Coorg District in Karnataka. After two years professional training at Indian Forest College, Dehradun and initial training at Nellore, he was posted as Assistant Conservator of Forests, Palghat Division.

After being Assistant to the Provincial Silviculturist, Ooty during 1950-54, he worked as District Forest Officer at Kollegal, Mangalore, Madurai West and Vellore East Divisions for four years. He then served as State Silviculturist from 1958 to 1960. He was on deputation to Andaman Nicobar Islands Forest Department for about 3 years.

His invaluable contributions to the development of tea plantations and TANTEA are significant and commendable. Joining the Government Tea Project in 1968, he prepared the Master Plan for raising Tea plantations in the Nilgiris for rehabilitation of Ceylon repatriates under the Shastri-Srimavo Pact. During 1970, he was promoted as Conservator of Forests, Government Tea Project and served for about six years.

He was the man and brain behind the growth of TANTEA which was established during 1976 and was also instrumental in setting up the Cherangode Tea Factory.

After his six years stay in the Government Tea Project, he was the Conservator of Forests ,Government Rubber Plantations at Nagercoil and actively encouraged the cultivation of Rubber Plantations in Kanyakumari District for about three years. He was very popular forest officer among the public and was known for his pleasing manners. The officers and staff of Forest Department often fondly recall his humane touch.

Shifting to Chennai as Conservator of Forests, Planning & Development, he went on to become the Chief Conservator of Forests, Tamil Nadu from 1980 to 1983. He succeeded Mr. R. Pasupathi IAS.

His varied and notable contributions in silvicultural research, Tea and Rubber are worthy of mention. He proved his mettle as an efficient Conservator of Forests and manoeuvred his way through the maze of difficulties with his enriched experience.

Even today, he lives in the minds of people for his work in TANTEA and ARC Ltd.

He proved himself as an effective Chief Conservator of Forests and handled difficult problems with much ease with his wide variety of experience in the Forest Department and allied fields.

He had kept good relations with the Government, other departments and District Collectors so as to sort out various forest related issues without much difficulty.

He was well known as a "Planter", "Researcher" and "Administrator" in the Tamil Nadu Forest Department.

The period he headed is considered as the "Golden Era" in the history of Tamil Nadu Forest Department. ■

T. ACHAYA
HIS INITIALS ARE TO BE READ AS TEA

HALL OF FAME

M.A. BADSHA

Mr. Mohammed Ansar Badsha was born in Madras in 1910 and developed interest in nature as a boy. In 1931, he graduated from Madras University and entered the Madras Forest College where he obtained his Diploma in Forestry. He started his career in the Madras Forest Department as a Forest Ranger and got promoted to the rank of Assistant Conservator of Forests towards the end of 1946. In the capacity of Assistant Conservator of Forests, he served in several places as an Attached Officer, Salem South Division. Assistant Forest Utilization Officer, Madras, City Firewood Officer, Madras, District Forest Officer, Hosur, Personal Assistant to the Chief Conservator of Forests, State Wildlife Officer etc.,. Mr. Ansar Badsha was deputed to Andhra State as a "Transferred Officer" on the request of the Andhra Government for appointment as Personal Assistant to the Chief Conservator of Forests, Andhra, from 1st October, 1953, then reverted to the Madras State on 27th August 1954 afternoon and assumed charge in the State as Personal Assistant to the Chief Conservator of Forests. In 1959, he received training in Canada in Forest Management and Wildlife Administration.

His contribution to the cause of wildlife in Madras State is without parallel. He started his career as the first State Wildlife Officer with its inception in July 1960 and continued in the post for over eight years, till his retirement in July 1968. Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary, Vedanthangal Birds Sanctuary, Guindy Deer Park and Childrens' Corner were transferred to the control of the State Wildlife Officer during 1960.

Mr. Badsha played a key role in giving shape to the Wildlife management in the State. The services of Mr. Badsha, State Wildlife Officer were extended for a period of one year from the date of superannuation ie., 15th July 1965. Further, with the reconstitution of Indian Forest Service he was taken as an initial recruit w.e.f. 01-10-1966 and retired from Indian Forest Service on 15-07-1968.

He dedicated his efforts for the formation and development of Wildlife Sanctuaries, particularly in Tamil Nadu, and was an authority on wildlife. The Vedanthangal Birds Sanctuary, the sanctuary for flamingos and water-fowl at Point Calimere, the Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary, Deer Park and Childrens' corner at Guindy. The Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve and Sanctuary, the first in the Country, dedicated to Tiger Conservation was his prime effort. His contribution for the management of water-fowl refuges for birds in Tamil Nadu is well known. He was known to be jovial with collegues and always offered help to them. His other interests were wildlife photography, landscaping, gardening and orchid culture.

His pioneering efforts on Tiger Conservation preceded the Project Tiger by a decade. He was a prolific writer and well known orator on forests and wildlife. He published a booklet on the reptiles and a check list of birds. He was a member of a numerous national and international scientific societies and bodies, dealing with natural history and wildlife.

He served as a panelist in the First World Conference on National Parks, held in Seattle, U.S.A. in June /July, 1962 and attended a number of international conferences on Forestry and Wildlife. He had a special interest in ornithology. He led several groups of International Ornithologists and Naturalists during their tour of India, Sri lanka, Nepal, Sikkim and Afghanistan.

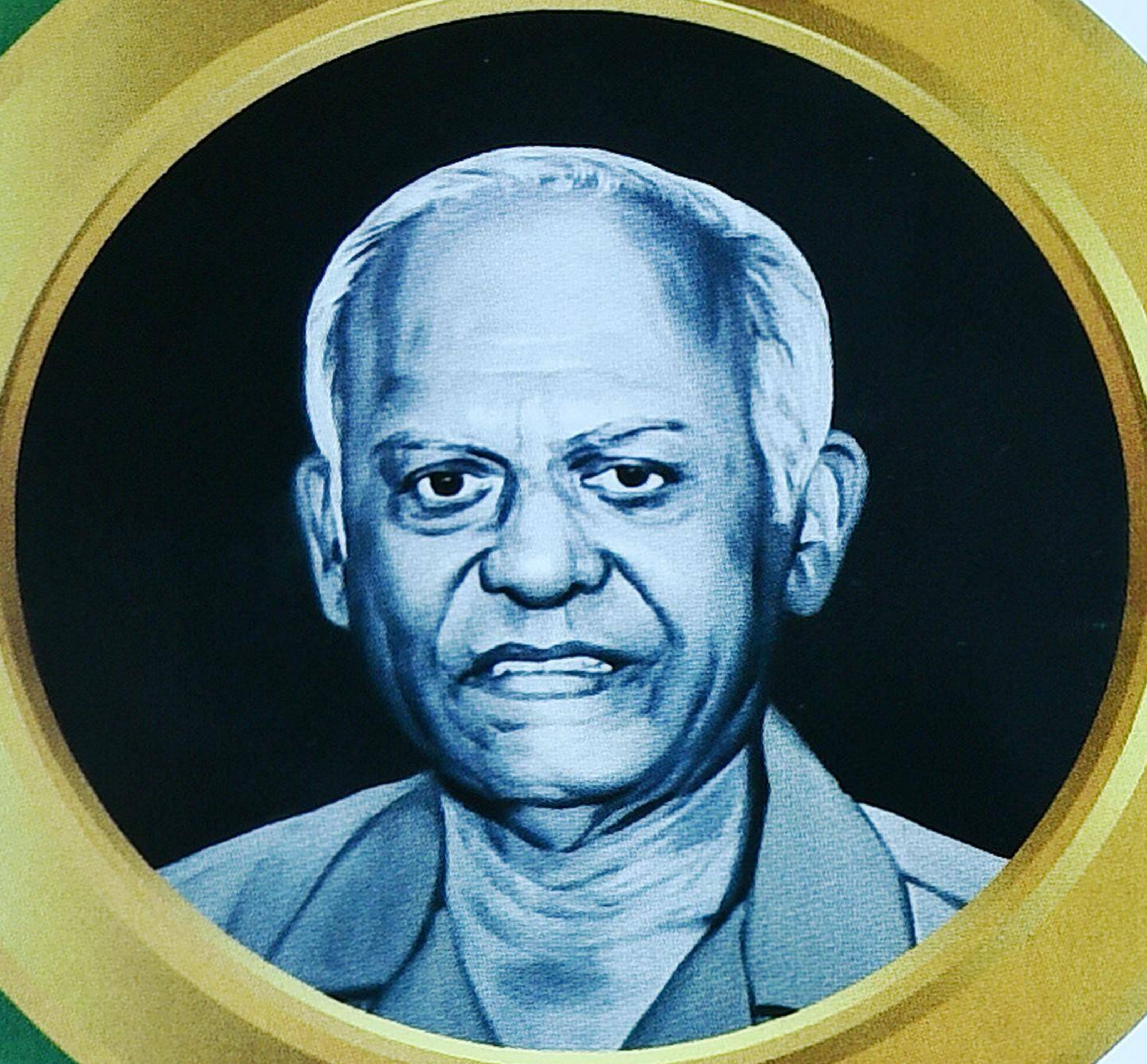
He travelled extensively, visiting Wildlife Parks, Sanctuaries and Zoological Gardens in Canada, U.S.A., U.K., Switzerland, Germany, Italy, France, Hawali, Japan, Hongkong and Malaysia. He visited Saudi Arabia as special representative of the Tamil Nadu and Bombay Haj Committees.

He was a special invitee to the Committee for the preparation of comprehensive Master Plan for improvement to Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu till the date of his death. He was a keen wildlife photographer and recipient of an international award in wildlife photography in the International Photo Contest held in Tokyo in February, 1965.

He worked as Adviser to Government of Dubai on Zoological Parks from April 1973 till the demise. He was doing research work on the birds of the Holy Quran. He was a very popular personality with charming manners, renowned and respected for his knowledge of wildlife. ■

M.A. BADSHA

A PRIME ADVOCATE OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION



HALL OF FAME
S. KONDAS

Prof. Kondas was a rare personality among foresters in India. After his academic training specializing in Botany, joined the Madras Forest Service in the year 1952 and underwent induction training at Indian Forest College, Dehradun. After completing the training he served in the rank of Assistant Conservator of Forests in various divisions. He was inducted into Indian Forest Service as initial recruit w.e.f. 01-10-1966 when the service was reconstituted and got allocated to Tamil Nadu Cadre with 1958 as year of allotment.

He joined the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University as founder Professor of Forestry in the year 1973 and continued to serve till 1978 accepting the invitation from Dr.G.Rangaswami, the first Vice-Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, choosing academics by leaving several perquisites and administrative benefits in Government service.

During the stay in Tamil Nadu Agricultural University he undertook several pioneering research works of practical utility to forestry in general and forest based industry in particular. This attracted financial assistance in support of the research projects from the State Government and Government of India followed the funding. Prof. Kondas was a very good organizer. He established the Forest Research Station, Mettupalayam, which later emerged as Forest College and Research Institute. The Forest College & Research Institute, Mettupalayam (TNAU) is offering undergraduate, post graduate and doctoral studies in Forestry. Many of its students are now in senior positions in IFS all over the country.

After leaving the Forest College, Mettupalayam, he was Conservator of Forests (Research) at Madurai and co-ordinated silvicultural research work in the Forest department, covering the entire State.

S. KONDAS PROFESSOR, SILVICULTURIST PAR EXCELLENCE

Prof. Kondas' quest for scientific pursuit was very great and he narrated about in his own words as follows : "Away from the humdrum of routine forest administration I had the privilege of experiencing an invigorating scientific pursuit for a decade, 1973-83, in different capacities as Professor of Forestry, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Conservator of Forests, Research and Managing Director, Tamil Nadu Forest Plantation Corporation. I had the opportunity and means to investigate into certain field problems concerning tropical pine culture, coppice-productivity of *Eucalpytus tereticornis*, biology of bamboos, silviculture of *Casuarina equisetifolia* and social forestry. The results of these studies were presented by me at various international conferences, the recent one being on "Social Forestry in India" at the IX International Forestry Congress 1985, Mexico." These papers had appeared in the proceedings of the Conference. Since they are not easily available I have presented them in the original form in a handy book. The text is supported by photographs from my personal collection of colour transparencies shot over years. I hope this book will not only set research scholars to think but also help field functionaries in their day to day works".

The International Foundation for Science, Sweden awarded him a research grant to work on tropical pine mycorrhizae in 1976 and also funded his participation at the Third North American Mycorrhizae Conference, Athens, GA, USA, 1977 and later a workshop on Tropical Mycorrhizae Research, Kumasi, Ghana, 1978. This took place while he was on deputation with Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore. The Canadian IDRC (International Development Research Centre) sponsored him for an assignment to update the knowledge on Casuarinas and supported his participation at the International Casuarina Workshop Canberra, Australia, 1981.

The CSIRO, Canberra by the courtesy of Australian Development Assistance Bureau arranged a very useful fortnight tour of Eucalyptus forests in Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria States preceding the Casuarina workshop. Mr.R.M.Veerappan, Hon' Minister in charge of Forests, Government of Tamil Nadu with keen interest in forestry administration, no less forestry research, readily supported his participation at all conferences abroad including the International Forestry Seminar, Kuala Lampur, Malaysia, 1980 and the IX International Forestry Congress, Mexico, 1985.

With the financial support of wood based industries, Messrs Seshasayee Paper and Boards Ltd., Erode and Messrs South India Viscose Ltd., Coimbatore, he had organised a tree improvement programme in *Eucalyptus tereticornis* at a cost of one million rupees with the research facilities of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University.

He served as the Chief Conservator of Forests of Tamil Nadu from 01-11-1983 to 02-05-1987 and ably manned the department. In the rank of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, he served TANTEA as Chairman and retired from his illustrious forestry career.

After retirement also he had been actively involved in forestry research and published valuable book on Biodiversity during 2012. He passed away in the year 2014. In his death, the department lost one of the very eminent foresters in the recent times. His contribution to Forest Education both at SFRC and TNAU and Forest Research in the department are much talked about even today. He is fondly addressed as Professor Kondas. His name is synonymous with research. ■

HALL OF FAME

J. WILSON

Born in South Kanara District in a family of planters after a brilliant academic record in Botany, Mr.Jayapal Wilson joined the Madras Forest Department as Assistant Conservator of Forests on 11.04.1953. Trained at Indian Forest College, Dehradun in 1953-55 batch, he received Honours Diploma and allotted to Nilambur division and Nilgiris division for practical training.

After completing practical training he was posted as Gazetted Assistant to the District Forest Officer, Nilgiris division. Then he joined at Salem as Assistant Conservator of Forests, Special Mobile Patrol Party. He served as District Forest Officer, Tirunelveli North division for a brief period during 1958 and became Working Plan Officer for Ramanathapuram division and held the post of District Forest Officer, Ramanathapuram also. As an Assistant convservator of Forests in Trichy, he along with the legendary Mr.Andiappan,the District Forest Officer ,Trichy he established successful teak Plantations in Cauvery Padugais and Canal banks in erstwhile Thanjavur district.

In his long and chequered career over 3 decades he held the post of several forest divisions and wrote Working plans for Coimbatore (South) division, Working plan for Periyanaickenpalayam range, Working plan for Mettupalayam and Bhavani ranges etc. He was inducted into IFS w.e.f. 01.10.1966 as initial recruit and was awarded the year of allotment of 1959 in Indian Forest Service.

He was a very strict disciplinarian known for administrative acumen and professional competence. He was the most respected forester of his time in Madras Forest Department. He served as Professor of Forestry after Mr.S.Kondas at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University for a brief period during late 1970's. The Naduvattam *Eucalyptus grandis* plantation speaks for his professional competence even today. It is a green memorial created by him and maintained as seed stand by the Research Wing of the department. He served as Conservator of Forests, Salem Circle and later served as Additional Chief Conservator of Forests, Social Forestry, thereafter he acted as Managing Director, Arasu Rubber Corporation and served well in that capacity with distinction. He was rule bound and known for his knowledge of rules and regulations in the department. Though he was elevated to the highest rank of Chief Conservator of Forests, he met with a road accident and died on the spot, while returning to Chennai from Christian Medical College, Vellore,

It is indeed very rare to find such officers in the department in future. His professional life is to be looked upon with reverence and his neat manners and etiquette are something to be cherished in memory and followed by all. ■

J. WILSON
BRILLIANT FIELDMAN AND PEN MAN OF TAMIL NADU FORESTS

HALL OF FAME

S. SANKARAMURTHY

Nagapattinam in the erstwhile Thanjavur district was his birthplace and Sankaramurthy was born in September of 1936. With a Masters degree in Botany , he joined the Madras Forest Service as an Assistant Conservator of Forests, Kodaikanal in 1959. The two years that he spent in professional training at Indian Forest College, Dehradun, moulded him for the role of a forester.

Mr. Sankaramurthy after serving in many important divisions like Tirunelveli and Nigiris North moved to Headquaters to take up Administration. He was Deputy Conservator of Forests (Hqrs) for many years. During this tenure he contributed eminently to the various policy initiatives of the Forest department –working as a bridge between the Department and Government. He was also our ambassador to Government of India on forestry matters. The credibility of Forest Department went a notch up due to his personality.

Mr.Sankaramurthy served as Conservator of Forests Salem Circle and Social Forestry Circles of Chennai, Trichy and Chief Conservator of Forests Social Forestry & Research

S. SANKARAMURTHY A MAN OF CONSCIENCE

wings. He had undergone training in Community Forestry in Commonwealth Forestry Institute, Oxford University, UK. He earned a name for himself in Social and Extension forestry aspects which were emerging on the forestry scenario.

He is considered as one of the architects of SIDA aided Tamil Nadu Social Forestry Project (TNSFP) involved fully in project formulation, negotiation in Sweden.Later he went on to head the TNSFP as Chief Conservator of Forests which saw massive afforestation of tank beds in Tamil Nadu which eased the fuelwood crisis and ultimately abated huge pressure on natural forests.

He was elevated to the highest post as Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chairman of TANTEA and retired on superannuation during 1994.

After retirement, he was the Director of Mangrove Project in M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation..He lent his valuable services to WWF-TN Chapter and SSFRDT,Chennai.

An expert guide to anyone who seeks his advice, this gentleman was a simple, honest and upright Officer, thorough in rules and regulations. He had all the Court Orders in his fingertips. His administrative orders were helpful to all concerned. Sankaramurthy is remembered as officer of eminent integrity and simplicity to the core. A man of conscience indeed. ■

HALL OF FAME

S. SHANMUGASUNDARAM

Mr. Shanmugasundaram was born in November, 1939. A native of Cuddalore, South Arcot, armed with a Master's Degree from Annamalai University in Botany, he got selected to the post of Assistant Conservator of Forests in Madras Forest Service during 1963 and received professional training till 1965 at Indian Forest College, Dehradun.

He was the Assistant Conservator for Forests and Deputy Conservator for Forests from 1965 to 1983 in territorial and extension forest divisions. Very much interested in plantation forestry and silvicultural research, he wrote numerous reports and projects in social forestry and forest research.

As Conservator of forests, he worked in forest research wing at Coimbatore and initiated several ground-breaking trials on various tree species like Eucalyptus, Casuarina and thornless Acacias.

He has the unique credit of being the first officer to introduce computers in the research wing of the Tamil Nadu Forest Department in 1988. He gave a drive for maintenance of plot files, analysis of scientific data and publication of annual research reports.

He was the Conservator of Forests, Social Forestry circle, Chengalpet and Managing Director of Tamil Nadu Forest Plantation Corporation, Trichy.

He served as the Chief Conservator of Forests in charge of the territorial administration of the State.

His enduring interest on scientific forestry did not mellow after his retirement. It ensued, and he released two books in Tamil. Plants of Tamil Nadu with a key to identify species in the field was awarded a prize and citation by the Tamil Nadu Government for being an invaluable science book. The other book he produced is Forests: A Scientific Treatise.

He was a prolific writer in Tamil literature and his eloquent mastery over the language led him to contribute articles for the World Classical Tamil Conference at Coimbatore. He drafted the amendment for launching a massive project of Social Forestry. His paper, Technique of Plant Fusion received commendation at the World Forestry Congress in Paris during 1992. He made a pioneering draft plan for Wildlife Management for Anaimalai Wildlife Sanctuary. Under the acronym TREE, he drafted a project for establishing an Institute for Forest Training, Research Education and Extension.

He drafted a report titled 'The Capacity of Forests to Sustain saw milling Trade in Tamil Nadu' as the Chairman of the Committee constituted for the purpose.

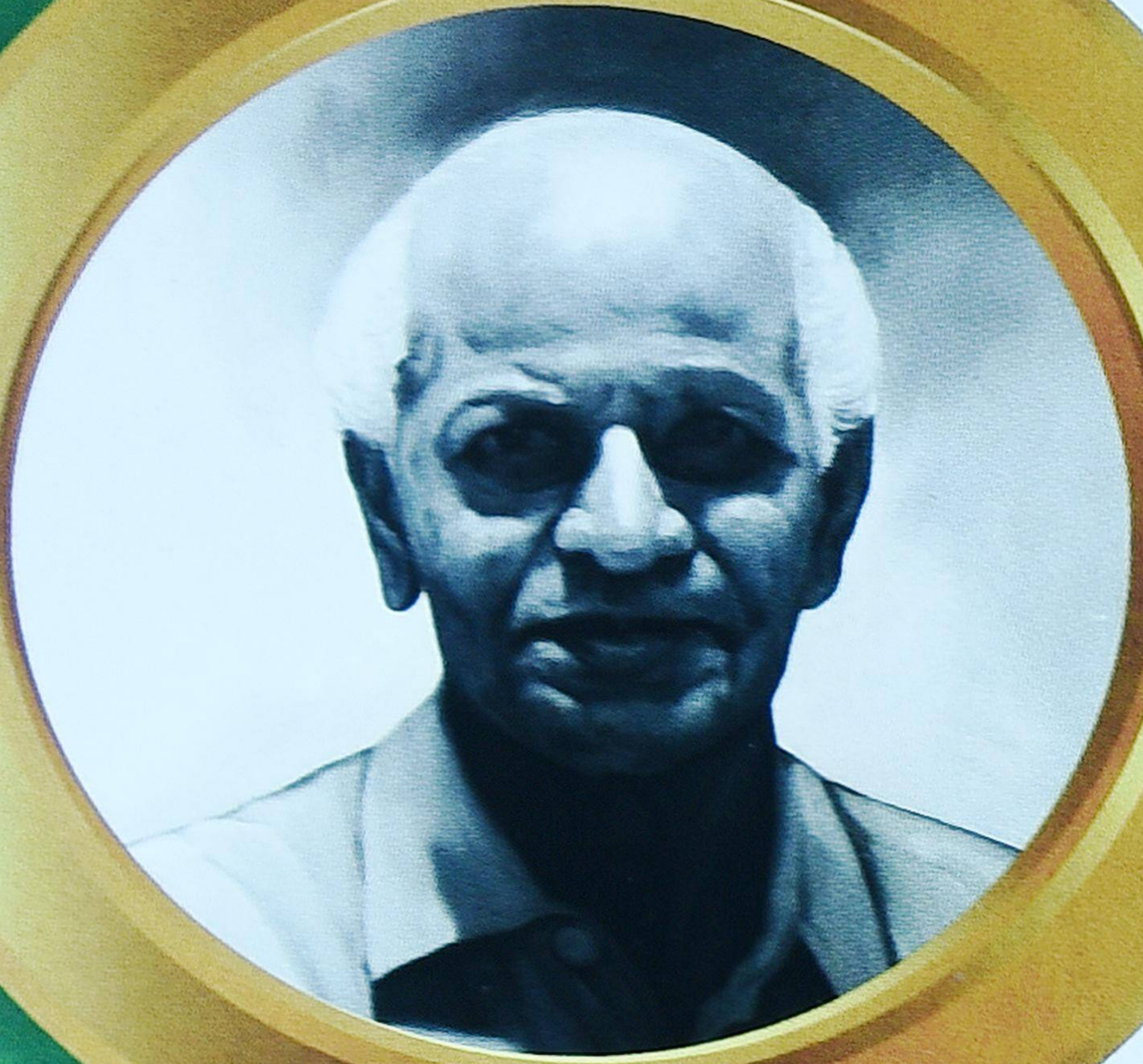
He handled general administration and management of forest resources for over 9 years, forest resource planning for 4 years and corporation management for 7 years. He was a member of the Administrative Reforms Commission formed by the Tamil Nadu Government.

He has shown a new horizon to Tamil Nadu Forest Department in Clonal Forestry in Eucalyptus and Cashew cultivation. At the International Conference on Community Forestry in Thailand, he represented as an author of Social Forestry Projects in India. He was a Consultant for National Afforestation & Eco-development Board and also a member of the Society for Social Forestry Research and Development, Chennai.

He was a unique academician on forestry research and will be forever remembered by the foresters of Tamil Nadu. ■

S. SHANMUGASUNDARAM

THE RESOURCEFUL TAMIL THINKER OF FORESTRY



HALL OF FAME

V. KRISHNAMURTHY

Born during June 1929, Dr. Krishnamurthy graduated from Madras Veterinary College and started his career as Veterinary Assistant Surgeon in 1952. He worked in Anamalais, till 1957.

Dr. Krishnamurthy was an elephant conservationist. He suggested immobilization darts as the most efficient means of capturing wild elephants. He raised the living standards of captive elephants. While in service and even after retirement, he was involved in the capture of more than 160 elephants and their training for domestication.

He was the first person to perform postmortem on elephants and probably holds the world record for that. He had seen the birth of over 99 elephant calves born in captivity. He had success in rearing orphaned calves, for the first time in India. He has treated more than 3000 elephants in his career.

His remarkable feat was the capture of the wild rogue 'makhna' elephant in Vaniyambadi, Tirupathur division, which had killed 15 persons.

Over his 35 years of service, a major portion was in the Forest department, around 26 years.

DR.V.KRISHNAMURTHY

THE MAN WHOM THE ELEPHANTS LOVED

He had opportunity to discuss with many authorities like P.D. Stracey and M. Krishnan in his earlier part of the career as Veterinary Assistant Surgeon in Anamalais during 1950's whom influenced his professional career very much.

He had trained mahouts in the humane and scientific method of care and handling of elephants all over the world.

He was Consultant to the Government of India and several state governments for addressing the problems of wild elephants.

Dr.Krishnamurthy has been on a short-time scholarship to the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, U.S. and participated in several international seminars and symposia. He has to his credit over 18 publications.

He was a Member of several committees for wildlife conservation. Some of them are Bombay Natural History Society, Madras Naturalists Society, World Wide Fund for Nature-India and Nilgiris Wildlife & Environment Association. He was a Member of the Asian Elephant Specialist Group.

He was made the honorary warden of the Nilgiris by the TamilNadu Government. The Government of Kerala recognised his contributions with a certificate of merit and memento during 1989 and he was presented with The Venu Menon Lifetime Achievement Award for Animal Welfare by Shri.R.Venkataraman, Former President of India during 2001.

He retired as Forest Veterinary Officer in the rank of Joint Director of Animal Husbandry during 1987.

He was devoted to elephants beyond comprehension. A charming, humble and honest personality who had a great sense of humour, he also loved cricket and Lord Byron's poems.

This exceptional Veterinary Doctor, who governed Mudumalai-Theppakadu Elephant Camp, was fondly called as 'Elephant Doctor', 'Elephant Man' and Dr.K.

His last association with the Forest Department was his participation as a Chief Guest in the function arranged at Top Slip in connection with the Decade of Project Elephant during 2001.

His life time dedication for the cause of elephant conservation and captive elephant management has no parallel. He will ever remain in the hearts of Foresters, Vetenarians and Elephant-men of TamilNadu as a household deity. His relationship with elephants is unbelievable and epic. ■

HALL OF FAME

M. KRISHNAN

Born in Tirunelveli (1911) Mr. Krishnan was a product of the Hindu High School and Presidency College. His father Mr.Madaviah was a well known Tamil Writer one of the reformist writers in Tamil language. Not best known for his academic brilliance, he nevertheless notched up an M.A., (Botany) and a law degree, but eventually carved a secure niche for himself where his heart took him – as a freelance writer and artist. A keen naturalist, Krishnan had a more than a casual interest in botany, mastered in the course of field visits to the Nilgiris Hills in the company of a scientist called Professor P.F Fyson.

After running through several jobs, none of which really interested him (Public Relations Officer for All India Radio, Political Secretary to the Maharaja of Sandur), he honed his skills in writing and embarked on a career on a writing that went on to span several decades. Recognising his immense potential, Krishnan was the first to be awarded the Jawaharlal Nehru Fellowship for an Ecological Survey of the Mammals of Peninsular India in 1968.

He had written the guide books of Vedanthangal and Mudumalai Sanctuaries of Tamil Nadu, of the Bandipur Tiger Reserve of Karnataka and of Corbett National Park in Uttarkhand. The other books are "The Tales of Dawood Khan"(Orient Longman) 1977, an original Tamil Detective novel – "Kathiresan Chettiarin Kaadal."

While Krishnan's magical writing that rendered authentic natural history into delightful prose is well acknowledged and widely celebrated, not many know about the meticulous management documents or survey reports he parepared for several National Parks and Sanctuaries. So it was not just the much appreciated wildlife photography or widely read nature columns that saw the best in Krishnan come out. These plan documents and reports were prepared with as much commitment and zeal.

He conducted surveys for 14 States and their forest departments across India. They are amazing in detail and depth. Krishnan knew only one way of working – with all his heart and soul. Not matter what the task at hand was, the effort was always more than hundred percent. This deep inner involvement at the centre of all his labour, is moving and can be inspiring to all those who came in to contact with him or his work.

Krishnan was an early ecological seer who saw the inextricable connectivity between nature and cultural or national identity.

Krishnan was an original thinker with a great respect for history and natural history. A loner in many ways, he never hesitated to share his knowledge or experiences with those less informed, provided he was assured that their interest in wildlife was genuine.

For Krishnan, the Elephant, as a special subject, was always close to his heart. He was an outstanding field biologist.

About Krishnan it could rightly be said that "he was a legend in his lifetime." He served for years on the Indian Board for Wildlife and the Steering Committee of Project Tiger.

From 1950 he wrote a bi-weekly column in The Statesman of Calcutta called 'Country Notebook'. In this column he wrote about various aspects of natural history. This column continued for 46 years, from 1950 to 18 February 1996, the day he died.He wrote till the last day of his life-such was his passion for writing.

He fought with all the power in his pen against those who introduced exotic plants such as *Croton bonplandianum*, *Prosopis juliflora* and water hyacinth in to India. Mr. Krishnan was awarded Padmashri for his life time contribution to natural history. Incidentally his son Mr.M.Harikrishnan, IFS served as Principal Chief Conservator of Forests in Tamil Nadu. ■

M. KRISHNAN
MEANS ARTIST, AUTHOR AND NATURALIST PAR EXCELLENCE

HALL OF FAME

RICHARD RADCLIFF

The man who stood like a Banyan tree - protecting and nurturing the Nilgiri Wildlife Association for over 30 years. A native of Kent in UK, he was born in August, 1914. After serving the British Army in World War II, Major Richard Radcliff came to India and worked as a coffee planter. He found that Nilgiris in India was similar to his hometown in England and fell in love with it.

Discovering the natural beauty of the Nilgiris, he campaigned for the preservation of natural resources and the conservation of flora and fauna of the Nilgiris. His home, Winchcombe was at the hilltop facing Kalhatti Valley and had a beautiful garden with rare flowering plants, personally tended by him. Another hobby of Radcliff was fishing, which he pursued all his life with passion.

Richard Radcliff was an old style conservationist who started as a game hunter and exchanged his gun for the camera and pen. He was the Founder of the Nilgiri Wildlife and Environment Association where he served as Vice President till his demise.

Over the span of sixty years, he traversed every nook and corner of the Nilgiris and had evolved into a walking encyclopaedia of the plateau. He identified many sensitive zones in the Nilgiri biosphere and urged the Government to declare them as protected zones. He strongly took up the case for a national policy for preservation of the various species of plants and animals. He played a very active role in the declaration of the Mukurthi National park in 1985 as also other sanctuaries of the State.

He was a member of the State Wildlife Board and an Honorary Wildlife Warden of the Nilgiris. One of the major tasks undertaken by him was the extension of the boundaries of the Mukurthi National Park. He was the editor of the Tahr, the Newsletter of the Nilgiri Wildlife and Environment Association wherein he stressed his view on many issues of conservation, like promoting larger sanctuaries and protecting reserve forests. In pursuing his commitment to the cause of nature, Radcliff balanced a rigid approach with compassion, reflecting possibly his true blooded British ancestry.

Radcliff was a crusader in the annals of conservation in the Nilgiris. He had made an indelible mark in the minds of the people of the Nilgiris who remain grateful to him for his extraordinary efforts in preserving the wealth of the hills for posterity. Radcliff was honoured with the Nilgiri Conservation Award in 1993. The Mukurthi Fishing Hut was named after him as "The Richard Radcliff Fishing Hut" and a stone plaque and a befitting epitaph was installed in his memory, when he passed away in 1997 at the age of 82 years.

Radcliff is fondly remembered for his visionary approach to natural history and conservation of one of the most charismatic regions of India viz. the Nilgiris. ■

MAJOR
RICHARD RADCLIFF

REMEMBERED FOREVER IN NILGIRIS.

HALL OF FAME

E.R.C. DAVIDAR

Mr. Davidar born in Kalakad (Tirunelveli District) in 1920, His father was a respected judge, and the family was known to be progressive with a number of the members being medical doctors and teachers. Davidar's grandfather loved animals, especially dogs and even maintained a small zoo in the garden. Evidently, this contributed to Davidar developing a passion for animals at a very early age. Davidar's early companion was an abandoned baby bonnet macaque which he named Juno.

Davidar was fascinated by Ooty which he had visited with his father when he was just a 12 year boy. It was luck abound when his father was posted as the sub judge therein. Davidar joined the British Law Firm, King & Partridge and his wife worked as a doctor in the Mobile Medical Unit of the Government Hospital, Ooty. Their extensive travels to the nook and corner of the Nilgiris, contributed to Davidar's empathy for the tribal communities and their culture.

In 1958, Davidar took charge of the Nilgiri Game Association which later came to be known as the Nilgiri Wildlife Association. A shikari himself, he slowly gave up hunting and switched to being a conservationist. Working with Major Richard Radcliffe, Davidar reoriented the scope and purpose of the Nilgiri Wildlife Association to establish the Nilgiri Wildlife and Environment Association.

Davidar became South India's renowned wildlife photographer and won many awards. He walked for days in the wilderness he loved, with the local tribal guides to capture rare moments of nature and wildlife

One of his pioneering works was on the elephant corridors of the Nilgiris and Anaimalais with the objective "to protect & preserve this wildlife corridor in a natural state for perpetuity." From 1980 to 1982, through a project with the Bombay Natural History Society, and the World Conservation Union (IUCN), Asian elephant specialist group, funded by the World Wildlife Fund, Davidar traced the trek routes of elephants in the Nilgiris and Anamalais on foot and on elephant back, and proposed corridors for the free movement of elephants. Some of the corridors were small, but the largest corridor covered a distance of 30 km and connected the Nilgiris with Wynad, Kerala. This report was published in the year 1981, and is viewed as a benchmark in the study of Asian Elephants. Davidar actively promoted the adoption and recovery of the corridor concept in the Nilgiris

Davidar's earliest study was on the natural history of the white bison of Manjampatty. He pioneered the observations on the behaviour of the dhole or wild dog for years. The quintessential naturalist in him saw him studying the striped hyenas in their habitat, spending many a sleepless night. He made ground-breaking observations on the biology of the striped hyena, and other elusive nocturnal species.

Sitting on their dens, he observed their gait, behaviour and markings as they cared for their young. He was attracted to one particular large male hyena which he would refer as "Mr. Hyena." He was devastated when he came to know that it was a victim of rash driving on the Ooty-Masinagudi road, which is one of the crucial corridors of the hyena.

E.R.C. Davidar wrote many articles and campaigned tirelessly to protect the Nilgiris. His publications found place in a spectrum of magazines like Cheetal, Sanctuary Asia, the Reader's Digest and even for the Playboy. His articles in Nilgiris Wildlife Association Centenary (1877 – 1977) Souvenir covered various aspects of Wildlife in Nilgiris, their management problems.

Davidar evinced a keen interest in the survey of Nilgiri Tahr and was responsible for pioneering one of the first studies on the species in 1975 covering TamilNadu and Kerala which helped in conserving the NilgiriTahr, the State Animal of TamilNadu.

Davidar has written 8 jungle story books for children and a fictional book on Veerappan, the elephant poacher, titled 'Lord of the Jungle'. His book 'Cheetal Walk' was published in 1997 and republished again during 2012 titled 'Whispers from the Wild'. He was designated a 'Wildlife Hero' by Sanctuary Asia in 2012. The Government of TamilNadu appointed him as Honorary Wildlife Warden of the Nilgiris. He was a member of the TN State Advisory Board for Wildlife, Bombay Natural History Society, the World Wildlife Fund, Madras Snake Park and Crocodile Park. He was also a member of the Specialist Group of the International Union of Nature and Natural Resources. Davidar leaves behind a rich legacy of a passion for wildlife conservation that is entrenched in the spirit of science.

He was able to pass on ethos and value system of conservation to next generation, the torch of which is carried forward by Dr. Priya Davidar, an eminent Ecologist in her own right. ■

E.R.C. DAVIDAR
A CONSERVATIONIST AND AUTHORITY ON NILGIRIS WILDLIFE

HALL OF FAME

K.M. MATTHEW

Fr. Matthew was born on 16th March 1930 at Ramapuram in Kerala. After Schooling in Travancore State, he had his collegiate education in the reputed St. Joseph's College; Trichy (1947 – 1950) and joined the Jesuit order in 1950. Completing his M.Sc., during (1958 – 1960), Fr. Matthew obtained a doctoral degree working on the alien plants of the Palani hills.

Fr. Matthew was the Director of The Rapinat Herbarium, Trichy (Research base) and also of The Anglade Institute of Natural History, Shembaganur, Kodaikanal (Environmental base), which he served with distinction. Fr. Matthew, a natural teacher and mentor, joined the teaching faculty of St. Joseph's College in the Department of Botany in the year 1967 and was instrumental in training some of the best botanists of India.

Fr. Matthew's phenomenal contribution to the biodiversity of India in general and south India in particular was through the publication of two compendiums titled: The Exotic Flora of Kodaikanal and The Flowering Plants of Kurseong.

After streamlining The Rapinat Herbarium in 1971, Fr. Matthew worked as a post doctoral fellow at the Kew Herbarium during which he visited a number of European herbaria. The following year saw him at The Rijks herbarium,

Leiden, Netherlands, revising the Cornaceae for the Flora Malesiana with ZWO fellowship of the Dutch Government.

These international exposures through six more assignments ensured Fr. Matthew's comprehensive understanding of flora worldwide, besides helping in the creation of dedicated networks of botanists and researchers.

Fr. Matthew viewed every such opportunity as a learning not just for himself but also for the many young researchers who were keen on embarking on a career in botany and natural history. .

Writing was a pet passion of Fr. Matthew, and he wrote extensively on teaching of systematic botany and was also the recipient of the Best Teacher Award of the Tamil Nadu Government in 1989.

Fr. Matthew's major efforts went into the Flora of the Indian peninsula east of the Western Ghats.. Fr. Matthew by 1995, had an amazing aggregate of 1,337 field days and 53,787 collections. 'The Excursion Flora' in English and Tamil ensured that the fruits of botanical research was delivered to the door step of every interested person or community. . Beginning 1984, a 3-day awareness programme from The Anglade institute of Natural History has handled over 35,000 trainees. Shola is a bi-annual newsletter of the institute that is regularly published since 1988.

Fr.Matthew was also instrumental in initiating a comprehensive scheme for an illustrated Flora of TamilNadu in two phases: the lowlands and the Palni hills. The crucial role of nature conservation was divided into the two components of the programme: environmental research and education, thereby underpinning the importance of science based conservation. Fr.Matthew's spartan life style combined with utmost dedication to the cause of conservation would ever remain unparalleled. Several awards and International Titles were bestowed on him but true to his calling, Fr.Matthew remained humble and shunned publicity. ■

FATHER
K.M. MATTHEW
A COMMITTED
TROPICAL
BOTANIST
AND
TEACHER

"THE TEAM"

Left to Right : Dr. Rajeev K. Srivastava, V. Ganesan, Dr. V.K. Melkani, Dr.N. Krishnakumar, Hans Raj Verma, Lakshmi Narayan, R.K. Ojha, Dr. S. Balaji, T.S. Srinivasamurthy

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Front Cover : KMTR Landscape

Back Cover : Shola Grassland Ecosystem